
SENATE BILL 5474

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senator Mullet

1 AN ACT Relating to preparedness of state agencies to manage data
2 backup and improve disaster recovery practices; creating new
3 sections; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that breaches
6 in data security prevent state agencies from protecting confidential
7 and sensitive information stored in information technology systems.
8 In the absence of proper data backup and disaster recovery practices,
9 state agency information technology systems are vulnerable to such
10 breaches in security. The legislature finds that the office of the
11 chief information officer has developed policies and standards for
12 data backup and recovery practices that agencies are encouraged to
13 emulate so as to protect confidential and sensitive information
14 contained in each agency's information technology systems. On
15 September 17, 2020, the state auditor's office released a performance
16 audit regarding data backup and disaster recovery. Within these
17 findings, the state auditor's office found that none of the four
18 audited agencies fully and consistently met all state requirements
19 for data backup, disaster recovery, and testing recovery plans. In
20 addition to not meeting state requirements, the state auditor's
21 office found agencies could further reduce disruptions to their

1 services and operations by following the backup and disaster recovery
2 guidance offered by leading practices. The legislature recognizes
3 that action must be taken at each state agency to ensure data backup
4 and disaster recovery practices are consistent with the office of the
5 chief information officer's policies and standards for data backup
6 and recovery practices to protect agencies from the harmful impacts
7 of information technology systems disruptions.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By October 1, 2022, each executive
9 state agency must perform a review of its internal data backup and
10 disaster recovery practices, utilizing the policies and standards
11 adopted by the office of the chief information officer under chapter
12 43.105 RCW, and must submit a report of its findings to the office of
13 the chief information officer. The report must include:

14 (a) An evaluation of the agency's existing data backup and
15 disaster recovery practices and how they compare to the policies and
16 standards adopted by the office of the chief information officer
17 under chapter 43.105 RCW; and

18 (b) If the agency's existing data backup and disaster recovery
19 practices do not align with the policies and standards adopted by the
20 office of the chief information officer under chapter 43.105 RCW, an
21 analysis of the estimated costs and timelines required to achieve
22 compliance with these standards.

23 (2) By December 1, 2022, the office of the chief information
24 officer must submit to the legislature a report summarizing agency
25 findings submitted pursuant to subsection (1) of this section,
26 including agency compliance with data backup and disaster recovery
27 standards and policies adopted under chapter 43.105 RCW, and
28 aggregate agency estimated costs and timelines required to achieve
29 compliance with these policies and standards.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire June
31 30, 2023.

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