

What is the Louisiana Database Security Breach Notification Law?

The Louisiana Database Security Breach Notification Law (SB 205) requires businesses to notify Louisiana residents when a security breach results in their unencrypted personal information being released to unauthorized parties and there is reasonable likelihood of harm to customers. The Act specifies the notification steps businesses must follow in the event of a security breach. It came into effect January 1, 2006.

Who is affected?

This Act affects all individuals and businesses that conduct business in Louisiana that store personal information of state residents. Personal Information is defined as the first name or initial and last name in combination with one or more of the following nonpublic unencrypted pieces of information: a social security number, a driver's license number or a bank account, credit card or debit card number accompanied by the applicable passwords or security codes.

What does the Database Security Breach Notification Law have to do with information management?

According to the Act, Louisiana businesses are responsible for the security of their computerized customer records. If companies experience a security breach and disclose personal information to unauthorized parties, they are responsible for notifying the affected individuals.

By monitoring and controlling the amount of customer data held on site in computerized form, businesses can reduce the risk of losing or otherwise releasing data to unauthorized parties. Computer backups containing personal information that are no longer needed should be disposed of securely.

Similarly, other computerized mediums containing personal information, such as CDs, computer disks, and hard drives should be destroyed once no longer needed.

What do companies have to do to comply with the Act?

Businesses must alert affected customers when personal information which is not publicly available is acquired, or is thought to have been acquired, by unauthorized parties. Methods for notifying affected individuals are outlined in the Act. If the cost of notifying affected individuals is more than \$250,000, or the number of affected individuals exceeds \$500,000, substitute notification methods may be followed.

The Act creates a civil remedy for individuals who suffer actual damage resulting from a business' failure to disclose a security breach in a timely manner.

How can we help?

As you develop your document disposal program in accordance with the Database Security Breach Notification Law, consider contracting Securit to handle your document destruction needs. Shred-it destroys all of your confidential materials, including computerized data such as CD-ROMs/CD-Rs/DVDs and computer backups. By providing locked consoles for your office, Securit makes it easy and efficient to destroy unnecessary copies of your customers' personal information. Securit destroys documents on site in our mobile shredding truck. For peace of mind, contact Securit today at 1 800 697-4733.

For more information:

Louisiana State Legislature - <http://www.legis.state.la.us>

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