

5871

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 5, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ROBIN-
SON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and
Protection

AN ACT in relation to creating a temporary state commission on personal
privacy to examine and assess the privacy of individuals in the state
of New York and to make recommendations relative to the protection
thereof; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon the
expiration thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. New York state historically has been a leader in protecting
2 the personal privacy of its citizens. Today governmental agencies and
3 commercial firms are constantly gathering and distributing more and more
4 detailed information on the personal lives of the citizens of New York.
5 The rapid advancement in technology in recent years has created new
6 potential threats to the privacy of individuals. The ability to collect,
7 collate, and transmit personal data using information technology now
8 allows isolated pieces of information on an individual to be compiled
9 into profiles of the individual. No comprehensive federal or state law
10 governs personal privacy, nor is any federal or state agency charged
11 with the sole responsibility of identifying personal privacy problems
12 that need to be addressed and encouraging the development and enactment
13 of policies aimed at protecting individuals' privacy. A thorough under-
14 standing of the potential dangers to personal privacy is necessary in
15 order that the legislature may take the appropriate steps to protect the
16 privacy of the state's citizens at this pivotal point in time.
17 S 2. A temporary state commission is hereby established to be known as
18 the "commission on personal privacy". The role of the commission
19 includes, but is not limited to:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (a) assessing the level of citizen concern about personal privacy and,
2 to the extent possible, the incidence of privacy intrusions suffered by
3 New York citizens;

4 (b) examining the practices of state and local governmental agencies
5 and businesses related to the collection, storage, and distribution of
6 personal information and assessing the potential privacy issues associ-
7 ated with such collection, storage and distribution;

8 (c) assessing the scope and effectiveness of existing federal and
9 state privacy protection laws and self-regulatory efforts undertaken by
10 businesses in protecting personal privacy;

11 (d) recommending appropriate legislative and administrative reforms
12 relating to state systems that collect and maintain personal information
13 of employees, public retirees and other persons to ensure that personal
14 information is not subject to misappropriation; and

15 (e) recommending appropriate legislation relating to the collection,
16 storage, and distribution of personal information by businesses to
17 ensure that personal information is not subject to misappropriation.

18 S 3. The commission shall make a preliminary report to the governor
19 and the legislature of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations
20 not later than the one hundred eightieth day after the effective date of
21 this section and a final report of its findings, conclusions, and recom-
22 mendations not later than one year after the effective date of this
23 section, and shall submit with its reports such legislative proposals as
24 it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

25 S 4. The commission shall consist of a total of fifteen members who
26 shall be appointed not later than the thirtieth day after the effective
27 date of this section and shall include the superintendent of the depart-
28 ment of financial services, the secretary of state, the director of the
29 office of information technology services, and the attorney general, or
30 a designee of any of said officers. The remaining eleven, at-large
31 members shall be appointed as follows: three shall be appointed by the
32 governor; three shall be appointed by the temporary president of the
33 senate and one by the minority leader of the senate; three shall be
34 appointed by the speaker of the assembly and one by the minority leader
35 of the assembly. One each of the appointments of the governor, temporary
36 president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly shall be a
37 member, officer, or employee of a consumer advocacy organization. One
38 of the appointments of the governor shall be a member, officer, or
39 employee of a statewide association representing and advocating for the
40 interests of businesses. One of the appointments of the governor shall
41 be a member, officer, or employee of a statewide association represent-
42 ing and advocating for the interests of local governments. One of the
43 appointments of the speaker of the assembly shall be an individual who
44 has conducted academic research on personal privacy protection. One of
45 the appointments of the speaker of the assembly shall be a member, offi-
46 cer, or employee of a manufacturer of systems used by state and local
47 governments to electronically store data. One of the appointments of the
48 temporary president of the senate shall be a member, officer, or employ-
49 ee of a statewide trade association representing the health care indus-
50 try. One of the appointments of the temporary president of the senate
51 shall be a member, officer, or employee of a statewide trade association
52 representing financial institutions. An organization shall be considered
53 a consumer advocacy organization if it advocates for enhanced consumer
54 protection in the marketplace, educates consumers, and researches and
55 analyzes consumer issues, including consumers' right to privacy.

1 S 5. The secretary of state shall serve as chairperson of the commis-
2 sion. The commission may consult with any organization, educational
3 institution, governmental agency, or person.

4 S 6. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation,
5 except that at-large members shall be allowed their necessary and actual
6 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under this act.

7 S 7. The department of state shall provide the commission with such
8 facilities, assistance, and data as will enable the commission to carry
9 out its powers and duties. Additionally, all other departments or agen-
10 cies of the state or subdivisions thereof shall, at the request of the
11 chairperson, provide the task force with such facilities, assistance,
12 and data as will enable the commission to carry out its powers and
13 duties.

14 S 8. With the approval of the chairperson of the commission, members
15 of the commission may participate in meetings of the commission by means
16 of videoconference or similar equipment that allows all members partic-
17 ipating in such meetings to see and hear each other at the same time and
18 allows the public attending the meeting in person to see and hear the
19 members of the commission participating in such manner.

20 S 9. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
21 have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed on the three
22 hundred ninety-fifth day after it shall have taken effect.