

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 142

To impose privacy requirements on providers of internet services similar to the requirements imposed on Federal agencies under the Privacy Act of 1974.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2019

Mr. RUBIO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To impose privacy requirements on providers of internet services similar to the requirements imposed on Federal agencies under the Privacy Act of 1974.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “American Data Dis-  
5 semination Act of 2019” or the “ADD Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act—

1           (1) the term “agency” has the meaning given  
2 the term in section 552a of title 5, United States  
3 Code;

4           (2) the term “appropriate committees of Con-  
5 gress” means—

6                   (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
7 and Transportation of the Senate; and

8                   (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
9 merce of the House of Representatives;

10          (3) the term “collect” means to buy, rent, gath-  
11 er, obtain, receive, or access information about an  
12 individual by any means, including by—

13                   (A) receiving information from the indi-  
14 vidual, either actively or passively; or

15                   (B) observing the behavior of the indi-  
16 vidual;

17          (4) the term “Commission” means the Federal  
18 Trade Commission;

19          (5) the term “covered provider” means a person  
20 that—

21                   (A) provides a service that uses the inter-  
22 net; and

23                   (B) in providing the service under subpara-  
24 graph (A), collects records;

1           (6) the term “disclose” means to release, dis-  
2           seminate, make available, transfer, or otherwise  
3           communicate orally, in writing, or by electronic or  
4           other means;

5           (7) the term “maintain” includes maintain, col-  
6           lect, use, disclose, or process;

7           (8) the term “Privacy Act of 1974” means sec-  
8           tion 552a of title 5, United States Code;

9           (9) the term “process” means to perform an  
10          operation or set of operations on information or on  
11          sets of information, whether or not by automated  
12          means;

13          (10) subject to subsection (b), the term  
14          “record” means any item, collection, or grouping of  
15          information about an individual that—

16                (A) is maintained by a covered provider,  
17                including the education, financial transactions,  
18                medical history, and criminal or employment  
19                history of the individual; and

20                (B) contains any name or number that  
21                may be used, alone or in conjunction with any  
22                other information, to identify a specific indi-  
23                vidual, including any—

24                       (i) name, social security number, date  
25                       of birth, official driver’s license or identi-

1           fication number issued by a State, alien  
2           registration number, government passport  
3           number, or employer or taxpayer identi-  
4           fication number;

5           (ii) unique biometric data, such as fin-  
6           gerprint, voice print, retina or iris image,  
7           or other unique physical representation;

8           (iii) unique electronic identification  
9           number, address, or routing code;

10          (iv) telecommunication identifying in-  
11          formation or access device (as those terms  
12          are defined in section 1029(e) of title 18,  
13          United States Code); or

14          (v) user-generated content; and

15          (11) the term “sell” means to disclose informa-  
16          tion about an individual to another person for mone-  
17          tary or other valuable consideration.

18          (b) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION.—If the Commis-  
19          sion promulgates regulations under section 4(a), the Com-  
20          mission may modify, at any time, the definition of the  
21          term “record” under subsection (a) of this section as nec-  
22          essary to conform to new Federal laws or regulations.

1 **SEC. 3. RECOMMENDED PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
2 **PROVIDERS OF INTERNET SERVICES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall sub-  
5 mit to the appropriate committees of Congress detailed  
6 recommendations for privacy requirements that Congress  
7 could impose on covered providers that would be substan-  
8 tially similar, to the extent practicable, to the require-  
9 ments applicable to agencies under the Privacy Act of  
10 1974.

11 (b) SUBJECTS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.—The rec-  
12 ommendations under subsection (a) shall address the  
13 issues described in section 4.

14 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS IMPOSING PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS**  
15 **ON PROVIDERS OF INTERNET SERVICES.**

16 (a) REGULATIONS.—

17 (1) PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—Not earlier  
18 than 1 year after the date on which the Commission  
19 submits detailed recommendations for privacy re-  
20 quirements under section 3(a), and not later than 15  
21 months after that date, the Commission shall pub-  
22 lish and submit to the appropriate committees of  
23 Congress proposed regulations to impose privacy re-  
24 quirements on covered providers that are substan-  
25 tially similar, to the extent practicable, to the re-

1 requirements applicable to agencies under the Privacy  
2 Act of 1974.

3 (2) FINAL REGULATIONS.—If a law imposing  
4 privacy requirements on covered providers that are  
5 substantially similar, to the extent practicable, to the  
6 requirements applicable to agencies under the Pri-  
7 vacy Act of 1974 is not enacted by the date that is  
8 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
9 Commission shall, not later than 27 months after  
10 that date of enactment, promulgate final regulations  
11 that impose such privacy requirements.

12 (b) CONTENTS.—In promulgating regulations under  
13 subsection (a), the Commission—

14 (1) shall—

15 (A) establish criteria for exempting certain  
16 small, newly formed covered providers from the  
17 requirements under the regulations, taking into  
18 account factors including—

19 (i) the period of time during which  
20 the covered provider has been operating as  
21 a covered provider;

22 (ii) the annual revenue of the covered  
23 provider; and

24 (iii) the number of individuals about  
25 whom the covered provider collects records;

1 (B) restrict disclosure of records main-  
2 tained by covered providers;

3 (C) provide that—

4 (i) an individual may request access to  
5 a record (or a portion thereof) maintained  
6 by a covered provider that relates to the  
7 individual; and

8 (ii) upon a request under clause (i),  
9 the covered provider shall—

10 (I) provide the individual with ac-  
11 cess to the record (or the relevant  
12 portion thereof); or

13 (II) if the covered provider so  
14 elects, delete the record (or the rel-  
15 evant portion thereof), subject to the  
16 requirements to keep and provide an  
17 accounting under subparagraph (G);

18 (D) provide that if an individual dem-  
19 onstrates that a record relating to the indi-  
20 vidual is not accurate, relevant, timely, or com-  
21 plete (as those terms are defined by the Com-  
22 mission)—

23 (i) the individual may request that the  
24 covered provider amend the record; and

1                   (ii) upon a request under clause (i),  
2                   the covered provider shall amend the  
3                   record;

4                   (E) establish a process modeled on the  
5                   process established under section 611(a) of the  
6                   Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C.  
7                   1681i(a))—

8                   (i) through which an individual and a  
9                   covered provider may resolve a dispute  
10                  under subparagraph (D) of this paragraph  
11                  regarding the assertion that a record relat-  
12                  ing to the individual is not accurate, rel-  
13                  evant, timely, or complete; and

14                  (ii) that does not require the indi-  
15                  vidual to incur any expense;

16                  (F) in accordance with accepted standards  
17                  and in consultation with the Secretary of Com-  
18                  merce, establish a code of “fair information  
19                  practices”, for the secure collection, mainte-  
20                  nance, and dissemination of records, with which  
21                  a covered provider must comply;

22                  (G) require a covered provider, in a man-  
23                  ner substantially similar, to the extent prac-  
24                  ticable, to the requirements applicable to agen-

1           cies under section 552a(c) of title 5, United  
2           States Code, to—

3                   (i) keep an accounting of certain dis-  
4                   losures of records for a reasonable period  
5                   of time, as determined by the Commission;  
6                   and

7                   (ii) make available to an individual,  
8                   upon request, the accounting made under  
9                   clause (i) of disclosures of records relating  
10                  to the individual, unless the period of time  
11                  described in that clause has expired; and

12                  (H) to the extent practicable, incorporate  
13                  the exceptions under paragraphs (1) through  
14                  (12) of section 552a(b) of title 5, United States  
15                  Code; and

16                  (2) may promulgate regulations not described  
17                  in paragraph (1) that are modeled on section 552a  
18                  of title 5, United States Code, and the regulations  
19                  promulgated under that section.

20           (c) APPLICATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—

21                   (1) EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS SUBJECT TO  
22                   OTHER FEDERAL PRIVACY LAWS.—To the extent  
23                   that a person is subject to a Federal privacy law de-  
24                   scribed in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the regu-  
25                   lations promulgated under subsection (a) shall not

1 apply to the person with respect to any information  
2 or records governed by that Federal privacy law.

3 (2) OTHER FEDERAL PRIVACY LAWS DE-  
4 SCRIBED.—The Federal privacy laws described in  
5 this paragraph are as follows:

6 (A) The regulations promulgated under  
7 section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Port-  
8 ability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42  
9 U.S.C. 1320d–2 note), as those regulations re-  
10 late to—

11 (i) a person described in section  
12 1172(a) of the Social Security Act (42  
13 U.S.C. 1320d–1(a)); or

14 (ii) transactions referred to in section  
15 1173(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42  
16 U.S.C. 1320d–2(a)(1)).

17 (B) Section 444 of the General Education  
18 Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (commonly  
19 referred to as the “Family Educational Rights  
20 and Privacy Act of 1974”).

21 (C) Section 552a of title 5, United States  
22 Code.

23 (3) CONFLICTS.—

24 (A) CHILDREN’S ONLINE PRIVACY PROTEC-  
25 TION ACT.—In the case of a conflict between

1 the regulations promulgated under subsection  
2 (a) of this section and the Children’s Online  
3 Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C.  
4 6501 et seq.) (and any regulations promulgated  
5 under that Act), the Commission shall deter-  
6 mine which provision of law shall apply.

7 (B) GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT.—In the  
8 case of a conflict between the regulations pro-  
9 mulgated under subsection (a) of this section  
10 and title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of  
11 1999 (15 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.) (and any regula-  
12 tions promulgated under that Act), the Com-  
13 mission shall determine which provision of law  
14 shall apply.

15 **SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT.**

16 (a) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—  
17 A violation of a regulation promulgated under section 4(a)  
18 shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair  
19 or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section  
20 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15  
21 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

22 (b) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
24 graph (3), if the Commission promulgates regula-  
25 tions under section 4(a), the Commission shall en-

1 force this Act in the same manner, by the same  
2 means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and  
3 duties as though all applicable terms and provisions  
4 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41  
5 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of  
6 this Act.

7 (2) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Except as  
8 provided in paragraph (3), any person who violates  
9 a regulation promulgated under section 4(a) shall be  
10 subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges  
11 and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Com-  
12 mission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

13 (3) COMMON CARRIERS.—Notwithstanding sec-  
14 tion 4, 5(a)(2), or 6 of the Federal Trade Commis-  
15 sion Act (15 U.S.C. 44, 45(a)(2), 46) or any juris-  
16 dictional limitation of the Commission, if the Com-  
17 mission promulgates regulations under section 4(a),  
18 the Commission shall also enforce this Act, in the  
19 same manner provided in paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
20 this subsection, with respect to common carriers  
21 subject to the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
22 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and Acts amendatory thereof  
23 and supplementary thereto.

1           (4) **AUTHORITY PRESERVED.**—Nothing in this  
2       Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the  
3       Commission under any other provision of law.

4 **SEC. 6. EFFECT ON STATE LAWS.**

5       This Act, including any regulations promulgated  
6       under section 4(a), shall supersede any provision of the  
7       law of a State relating to a covered provider that is subject  
8       to such a regulation, to the extent that the provision re-  
9       lates to the maintenance of—

10           (1) records covered by this Act; or

11           (2) any other personally identifiable information  
12       or personal identification information.

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