

**INTERNET PRIVACY AMENDMENTS**

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Stewart Barlow**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions addressing labor in general and higher education to enact protections for personal Internet accounts.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ enacts the Internet Employment Privacy Act, including:
  - defining terms;
  - prohibiting certain actions by an employer;
  - permitting certain actions by an employer;
  - providing that the chapter does not create certain duties; and
  - providing private right of action; and
- ▶ enacts the Internet Postsecondary Education Privacy Act, including:
  - defining terms;
  - prohibiting certain actions by a postsecondary institution;
  - permitting certain actions by a postsecondary institution;
  - providing that the chapter does not create certain duties; and
  - providing for private right of action.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**



28 None

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 ENACTS:

31 **34-48-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

32 **34-48-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

33 **34-48-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34 **34-48-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 **34-48-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 **34-48-301**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37 **53B-24-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

38 **53B-24-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

39 **53B-24-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

40 **53B-24-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

41 **53B-24-203**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

42 **53B-24-301**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



44 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

45 Section 1. Section **34-48-101** is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 48. INTERNET EMPLOYMENT PRIVACY ACT**

**Part 1. General Provisions**

48 **34-48-101. Title.**

49 This chapter is known as the "Internet Employment Privacy Act."

50 Section 2. Section **34-48-102** is enacted to read:

51 **34-48-102. Definitions.**

52 As used in this chapter:

53 (1) "Access information" means a user name, password, login information, or other  
54 security information that protects access to a personal Internet account.

55 (2) "Employer" means a person, including the state or a political subdivision of the  
56 state, that has one or more workers or operators employed in the same business, or in or about  
57 the same establishment, under any contract of hire, express or implied, oral or written.

58 (3) "Personal Internet account" means an account created by way of a bounded system

59 established by an Internet-based service that requires a user to input or store access information  
 60 by way of an electronic device to view, create, use, or edit the user's account information,  
 61 profile, display, communications, or stored data.

62 Section 3. Section **34-48-201** is enacted to read:

63 **Part 2. Prohibited and Permitted Activities**

64 **34-48-201. Employer may not request access to personal Internet account.**

65 An employer may not do any of the following:

66 (1) request an employee or an applicant for employment to grant access to, allow  
 67 observation of, or disclose information that allows access to or observation of the employee's or  
 68 applicant's personal Internet account; or

69 (2) discharge, discipline, fail to hire, or otherwise penalize an employee or applicant  
 70 for employment for failure to grant access to, allow observation of, or disclose information that  
 71 allows access to or observation of the employee's or applicant's personal Internet account.

72 Section 4. Section **34-48-202** is enacted to read:

73 **34-48-202. Permitted actions by an employer.**

74 (1) This chapter does not prohibit an employer from doing any of the following:

75 (a) requesting or requiring an employee to disclose access information to the employer  
 76 to gain access to or operate any of the following:

77 (i) an electronic communications device paid for in whole or in part by the employer;  
 78 or

79 (ii) an account or service provided by the employer, obtained by virtue of the  
 80 employee's employment relationship with the employer, or used for the employer's business  
 81 purposes;

82 (b) disciplining or discharging an employee for transferring the employer's proprietary  
 83 or confidential information or financial data to an employee's personal Internet account

83a **↔ [with] without ↔**

84 the employer's authorization;

85 (c) conducting an investigation or requiring an employee to cooperate in an  
 86 investigation in any of the following:

87 (i) if there is specific information about activity on the employee's personal Internet  
 88 account, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with applicable laws, regulatory requirements,  
 89 or prohibitions against work-related employee misconduct; or

90 (ii) if the employer has specific information about an unauthorized transfer of the  
91 employer's proprietary information, confidential information, or financial data to an employee's  
92 personal Internet account;

93 (d) restricting or prohibiting an employee's access to certain websites while using an  
94 electronic communications device paid for in whole or in part by the employer or while using  
95 an employer's network or resources, in accordance with state and federal law; or

96 (e) monitoring, reviewing, or accessing electronic data stored on an electronic  
97 communications device paid for in whole or in part by the employer, or traveling through or  
98 stored on an employer's network, in accordance with state and federal law.

99 (2) This chapter does not prohibit or restrict an employer from complying with a duty  
100 to screen employees or applicants before hiring or to monitor or retain employee  
101 communications that is established under federal law or by a self-regulatory organization under  
102 the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 78c(a)(26).

103 (3) This chapter does not prohibit or restrict an employer from viewing, accessing, or  
104 using information about an employee or applicant that can be obtained without any required  
105 access information or that is available in the public domain.

106 Section 5. Section **34-48-203** is enacted to read:

107 **34-48-203. Chapter does not create duties.**

108 (1) This chapter does not create a duty for an employer to search or monitor the activity  
109 of a personal Internet account.

110 (2) An employer is not liable under this chapter for failure to request or require that an  
111 employee or applicant for employment grant access to, allow observation of, or disclose  
112 information that allows access to or observation of the employee's or applicant for  
113 employment's personal Internet account.

114 Section 6. Section **34-48-301** is enacted to read:

115 **Part 3. Remedy**

116 **34-48-301. Private right of action.**

117 (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter may bring a civil cause of action  
118 against an employer in a court of competent jurisdiction.

119 (2) In an action brought under Subsection (1), if the court finds a violation of this  
120 chapter, the court shall award the aggrieved person ~~Ĥ~~→ **not more than** ←~~Ĥ~~ \$500.

121 Section 7. Section **53B-24-101** is enacted to read:

122 **CHAPTER 24. INTERNET POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION PRIVACY ACT**

123 **Part 1. General Provisions**

124 **53B-24-101. Title.**

125 This chapter is known as the "Internet Postsecondary Institution Privacy Act."

126 Section 8. Section **53B-24-102** is enacted to read:

127 **53B-24-102. Definitions.**

128 As used in this chapter:

129 (1) "Access information" means a user name, password, login information, or other  
130 security information that protects access to a personal Internet account.

131 (2) "Personal Internet account" means an account created by way of a bounded system  
132 established by an Internet-based service that requires a user to input or store access information  
133 by way of an electronic device to view, create, use, or edit the user's account information,  
134 profile, display, communications, or stored data.

135 (3) "Postsecondary institution" means an institution that provides educational services  
136 offered primarily to persons who have completed or terminated their secondary or high school  
137 education or who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance.

138 Section 9. Section **53B-24-201** is enacted to read:

139 **Part 2. Prohibited and Permitted Activities**

140 **53B-24-201. Prohibited activities.**

141 A postsecondary institution may not do any of the following:

142 (1) request a student or prospective student to grant access to, allow observation of, or  
143 disclose information that allows access to or observation of the student's or prospective  
144 student's personal Internet account; or

145 (2) expel, discipline, fail to admit, or otherwise penalize a student or prospective  
146 student for failure to grant access to, allow observation of, or disclose information that allows  
147 access to or observation of the student's or prospective student's personal Internet account.

148 Section 10. Section **53B-24-202** is enacted to read:

149 **53B-24-202. Permitted activities.**

150 (1) This chapter does not prohibit a postsecondary institution from requesting or  
151 requiring a student to disclose access information to the postsecondary institution to gain

152 access to or operate the following:

153 (a) an electronic communications device paid for in whole or in part by the  
154 postsecondary institution; or

155 (b) an account or service provided by the postsecondary institution that is either  
156 obtained by virtue of the student's admission to the postsecondary institution or used by the  
157 student for educational purposes.

158 (2) This chapter does not prohibit or restrict a postsecondary institution from viewing,  
159 accessing, or using information about a student or prospective student that can be obtained  
160 without required access information or that is available in the public domain.

161 Section 11. Section **53B-24-203** is enacted to read:

162 **53B-24-203. Duties not created.**

163 (1) This chapter does not create a duty for a postsecondary institution to search or  
164 monitor the activity of a personal Internet account.

165 (2) A postsecondary institution is not liable under this chapter for failure to request or  
166 require that a student or prospective student grant access to, allow observation of, or disclose  
167 information that allows access to or observation of the student's or prospective student's  
168 personal Internet account.

169 Section 12. Section **53B-24-301** is enacted to read:

170 **Part 3. Remedy**

171 **53B-24-301. Private right of action.**

172 (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter may bring a civil cause of action  
173 against a postsecondary institution in a court of competent jurisdiction.

174 (2) In an action brought under Subsection (1), if the court finds a violation of this  
175 chapter, the court shall award the aggrieved person ~~Ĥ~~→ not more than ←Ĥ \$500.

**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 1-30-13 5:13 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**