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HOUSE BILL 2606

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Barnard, Ryu, Nance, and Timmons

Read first time 01/21/26. Referred to Committee on Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans.

1 AN ACT Relating to performance measures, duties, and reporting  
2 requirements for the office of privacy and data protection; and  
3 amending RCW 43.105.369.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.105.369 and 2024 c 54 s 16 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The office of privacy and data protection is created within  
8 the agency. The purpose of the office of privacy and data protection  
9 is to serve as a central point of contact for state agencies on  
10 policy matters involving data privacy and data protection.

11 (2) The director shall appoint the chief privacy officer, who is  
12 the director of the office of privacy and data protection.

13 (3) The primary duties of the office of privacy and data  
14 protection with respect to state agencies are:

15 (a) To conduct an annual privacy review;

16 (b) To conduct an annual privacy training for state agencies and  
17 employees;

18 (c) To articulate privacy principles and best practices;

19 (d) To coordinate data protection in cooperation with the agency;

20 and

1 (e) To participate with the agency in the review of major state  
2 agency projects involving personally identifiable information,  
3 including projects using artificial intelligence.

4 (4) The office of privacy and data protection must serve as a  
5 resource to local governments and the public on data privacy and  
6 protection concerns by:

7 (a) Developing and promoting the dissemination of best practices  
8 for the collection and storage of personally identifiable  
9 information, including establishing and conducting a training program  
10 or programs for local governments; and

11 (b) Educating consumers about the use of personally identifiable  
12 information on mobile and digital networks and measures that can help  
13 protect this information.

14 (5) By December 1, 2016, and every four years thereafter, the  
15 office of privacy and data protection must prepare and submit to the  
16 legislature a report evaluating its performance. The office of  
17 privacy and data protection must establish performance measures in  
18 its 2016 report to the legislature and, in each report thereafter,  
19 demonstrate the extent to which performance results have been  
20 achieved. These performance measures must include, but are not  
21 limited to, the following:

22 (a) (~~The number of state agencies and employees who have~~  
23 ~~participated in the annual privacy training~~) Improvement of privacy  
24 and data protection policies and practices by state agencies and,  
25 when available, local governments, following participation in the  
26 office of privacy and data protection's trainings, and for state  
27 agencies, annual review;

28 (b) (~~A report on the~~) The extent of the office of privacy and  
29 data protection's coordination with international and national  
30 experts in the fields of data privacy, data protection, and access  
31 equity;

32 (c) (~~A report on the implementation of data protection measures~~  
33 ~~by state agencies attributable in whole or in part to the office of~~  
34 ~~privacy and data protection's coordination of efforts; and~~

35 (d) ~~A report on consumer education efforts, including but not~~  
36 ~~limited to the number of consumers educated through public outreach~~  
37 ~~efforts, as indicated by how frequently educational documents were~~  
38 ~~accessed, the office of privacy and data protection's participation~~  
39 ~~in outreach events, and inquiries received back from consumers via~~  
40 ~~telephone or other media~~) Data on contacts with the public,

1 including how many members of the public contact the office of  
2 privacy and data protection, the nature of the contact, and the  
3 office of privacy and data protection's response, including providing  
4 referrals and technical assistance;

5 (d) Results of direct evaluation from participants of the office  
6 of privacy and data protection's trainings, including in-person or  
7 virtual formats. The report shall also include how many trainings  
8 were completed, topics, and how many participants attended;

9 (e) The number and nature of technical assistance requests by  
10 state agencies and local governments;

11 (f) The office of privacy and data protection's staff continuing  
12 education activities or certifications in emerging technologies,  
13 evolving best practices, and state or federal policies; and

14 (g) The number of privacy threshold analyses completed, and the  
15 number of privacy impact assessments completed.

16 ~~((6) Within one year of June 9, 2016, the office of privacy and~~  
17 ~~data protection must submit to the joint legislative audit and review~~  
18 ~~committee for review and comment the performance measures developed~~  
19 ~~under subsection (5) of this section and a data collection plan.~~

20 ~~(7) The office of privacy and data protection shall submit a~~  
21 ~~report to the legislature on the: (a) Extent to which~~  
22 ~~telecommunications providers in the state are deploying advanced~~  
23 ~~telecommunications capability; and (b) existence of any inequality in~~  
24 ~~access to advanced telecommunications infrastructure experienced by~~  
25 ~~residents of tribal lands, rural areas, and economically distressed~~  
26 ~~communities. The report may be submitted at a time within the~~  
27 ~~discretion of the office of privacy and data protection, at least~~  
28 ~~once every four years, and only to the extent the office of privacy~~  
29 ~~and data protection is able to gather and present the information~~  
30 ~~within existing resources.))~~

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