

HB 1225 -- BIOMETRIC INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

SPONSOR: Lovasco

This bill establishes the "Biometric Information Privacy Act". Any private entity in possession of biometric identifiers or information, as defined in the bill, must have a written and publicly available retention schedule and guidelines for permanently destroying such identifiers and information when the initial purpose for collecting or obtaining them has been satisfied, or within one year of the individual's last interaction with the private entity, whichever occurs first.

No private entity may collect, purchase, receive, or otherwise obtain an individual's biometric identifier or information without first informing such individual in writing of the information being collected and the purpose for collection, and receiving a written release from the individual authorizing the collection. No private entity in possession of biometric identifiers or information may sell, lease, trade, or otherwise profit from an individual's identifier or information.

Any entity or individual required to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act shall treat biometric identifiers and information as individually identifiable health information protected under the Act.

No private entity may disclose or disseminate an individual's biometric identifier or information unless it has a written release from the individual, the disclosure completes a financial transaction requested or authorized by the individual, the disclosure is required by law, or the disclosure is required pursuant to a warrant.

A private entity in possession of biometric identifiers or information shall securely store such identifiers or information in accordance with the provisions of the bill.

A private entity shall not:

- (1) Condition the provision of a good or service on the collection, use, disclosure, transfer, sale, retention, or processing of a biometric identifier unless the biometric identifier is strictly necessary to provide the good or service; or
- (2) Charge different prices or rates for goods or services or provide a different level of quality of a good or service to any individual who exercises the individual's rights.

Any person aggrieved by a violation of the provisions of this bill shall have a right of action in court. The court shall award all attorney's fees and costs, including expert witness fees and other litigation expenses, to the prevailing plaintiff. A prevailing plaintiff may recover against a private entity for each violation:

(1) If the private entity was found negligently in violation, liquidated damages of \$1,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater;

(2) If the private entity was found intentionally or recklessly in violation, liquidated damages of \$5,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater; and

(3) Other relief, including an injunction, as the court may deem appropriate.

This bill is the same as HB 2716 (2022) and similar to HB 1047 (2023).