US

Pending Data Breach Bills in US Congress

US Congress is debating cybersecurity legislation and at the same time, has seven different data breach bills pending that are likely to pass this year. These will establish federal pre-emption, define "harm", create new categories of Personally Identifiable Information, add fines and initiate a new relationship between the federal government and the State Attorneys General. Democratic and Republican senators have been drafting legislation in response to the unprecedented number of security breaches at high profile companies which occurred last year.

US Congress

NSA Phone Data Collection "Illegal", US Court Rules

A federal appeals court in New York has ruled that the once-secret National Security Agency program that is systematically collecting Americans' phone records in bulk is illegal. Overturning a 2013 ruling, a three-judge panel for the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit held that a provision of the U.S.A. Patriot Act, known as Section 215, cannot be legitimately interpreted to allow the bulk collection of domestic calling records. The judges did not, however, halt the program, but urged Congress to take action.

Florida Passes Drone Surveillance Bill Requiring Individual Consent

The Florida House of Representatives has passed a bill that prohibits businesses and government agencies from using drones to conduct surveillance by capturing images of private real property or individuals on such property without valid written consent under circumstances where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists. Individuals will have a private right of action under the bill to seek compensatory damages, including punitive damages and attorney fees, and injunctive relief for violations of the surveillance prohibition.

Bill SB 766

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