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Auditor Edelen Applauds Passage of Cyber Security Legislation
Bill Also Receives Endorsement of Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 30, 2014) – Auditor Adam Edelen on Wednesday praised passage of House Bill 5, which would require state and local government agencies to notify citizens if their personal information is breached.

The measure passed the House unanimously. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.

The bill has more than 70 co-sponsors, including an almost equal number of Republicans and Democrats. The primary bill sponsors are Reps. Denny Butler, a Democrat, and Sal Santoro, a Republican.

“This is a common-sense measure to protect citizens’ data at a time when cyber security has become one of the most critical public protection issues,” Auditor Adam Edelen said. “I applaud the House for taking swift action and hope the Senate follows suit.”

Also Wednesday, the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce endorsed the measure.

“I’m proud of the coalition we have built and honored to have the NKY Chamber’s support behind an important bill that will provide taxpayers with much-needed protections.”

The bill also has the support of the Commonwealth Office of Technology, Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Association of Counties, Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Press Association and various state agencies.

House Bill 5 requires state and local government agencies to notify individuals affected by a data breach within 35 days of the incident. Notification must be provided on the agency’s website and to the media and individuals affected must be notified by phone, mail or email.

Appropriate law enforcement, regulatory agencies and the Auditor's office must be notified within 24 hours. If a breach affects more than 1,000 individuals, the Finance Cabinet and national consumer reporting agencies must be notified.

The bill also contains provisions to strengthen cyber security protections. It incentivizes agencies to encrypt personal information and calls on the Commonwealth Office of Technology to establish cyber security training for agencies.

Kentucky is one of four states that don't have a law requiring government to notify citizens of a breach.

Kentuckians are urged to show their support for the bill by signing a petition at www.housebill5.com and contacting their legislators.

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