



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## Protecting Californians' personal information: Assembly committee approves CAOC-sponsored bill SB 1121 motivates corporations to safeguard consumer data

**SACRAMENTO (June 19, 2018)** – Protecting Californians' sensitive personal information from data thieves is the goal of a bill sponsored by Consumer Attorneys of California that was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee today.

**Senate Bill 1121** by Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Napa) was drafted as a response to last year's massive Equifax data breach that hit 148 million Americans – nearly 60 percent of all U.S. adults – and in some cases exposed consumers' Social Security and driver's license numbers. The bill will give businesses more incentive to shield consumers' personal identifying and financial information from hackers by holding them accountable for harm caused when they fail to take reasonable security measures and fail to notify consumers of a breach.

SB 1121 will motivate companies to take the necessary steps to secure consumer data by adding damages, and it will guarantee that consumers can join together in class actions to hold negligent companies accountable. The bill clarifies that "consumers," not just "customers," are covered by data breach protections, a change reflecting the fact that, in cases like the Equifax breach, the consumers affected are not themselves "customers" of the company that allowed the breach. SB 1121 also changes existing law to allow consumers to seek redress for up to four years from the time they suffer financial harm, not from the time of the breach.

Businesses that encrypt or redact consumers' personal or financial information, or don't keep that data, will not be affected by SB 1121.

CAOC co-sponsors SB 1121 along with CALPIRG. The bill now advances to the Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee.

*Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs' attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.*

### **For more information:**

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