

# Maryland Personal Information Protection Act

Maryland Lawmakers have proposed 2 new pieces of legislation to address Privacy Protection concerns and to curb Identify Theft. **House Bill 630 & Senate Bill 486** were introduced to the General Assembly this past February for consideration.

According to many privacy advocates, these Bills have considerable support among lawmakers in Annapolis. The laws would require ALL companies “to destroy or arrange for the destruction” of all materials containing personal or sensitive information within their possession.

Under the proposed legislation, companies will be required to notify the Maryland Attorney General’s Office within 24 hours of discovery of all -even suspected- unauthorized access to privileged information of clients and customers. Businesses will also be required to notify all customers in the event of a security breach to personal information.

In addition to notification requirements, **HB 630 & SB 486** include severe penalties for violators. Penalties include;

- \$500 fine per violation
- Recovery of reasonable attorney’s fees
- Victims can seek and be awarded ACTUAL damages sustained as a result of a violation.

If enacted into law, **HB 630** is slated to take effect October 1, 2006

A copy of the proposed **SB 486** can be view at the link below.

[http://mlis.state.md.us/2006rs/fnotes/bil\\_0006/sb0486.pdf](http://mlis.state.md.us/2006rs/fnotes/bil_0006/sb0486.pdf)