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MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEY GENERAL LAUNCHES ONLINE DATA BREACH REPORTING PORTAL

On February 1, 2018, Massachusetts Attorney General (“AG”) Maura Healey launched a new Data Breach Reporting Online Portal (“Portal”) that businesses and organizations can use to provide notice to the AG’s office of data breaches that affect Massachusetts residents, as required by the Massachusetts Data Breach Notification Law.

The use of the Portal is optional but the Portal gives businesses the option of reporting data breaches online to the AG’s office in lieu of delivering a hard copy notice. The AG is also posting a database on the AG’s website that will allow consumers to see which businesses have reported data breaches and when, as well as the estimated number of affected Massachusetts residents.

Massachusetts legislators have also introduced a data breach bill into both the House and Senate (S.B. 130/ H.B. 134) that will eliminate fees, establish a one-step shop for placing credit freezes, mandate encryption of personal information in credit reports and require that companies obtain consent before accessing or using consumer credit reports and credit scores.

We will monitor further developments of the legislation and provide updates. □

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