



THE TEXAS STATE CHAMBER

TAB's purpose is to champion the best business climate in the world, unleashing the power of free enterprise to enhance lives for generations.

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*for 100 years*

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May 4, 2023

Dear Chairman Hughes and Committee Members,

On behalf of the business community, the **Texas Association of Business (TAB) supports HB 4**. The Texas Association of Business (TAB) is the State Chamber of Commerce and the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers, we represent members across every industry sector and size, as well as our local chambers.

We know from working with our broad membership base that “technology” issues no longer impact just tech companies. Today, every business depends on information technology to reach and better serve customers, process payroll and HR benefits, accommodate hybrid work, and make things better, faster, and less expensive for customers and workers alike.

Since comprehensive state data privacy legislation was first introduced 3 sessions ago, we have been working with our members to better understand this issue and how it impacts consumers and businesses. In absence of federal policy, we have seen other states propose and pass state data privacy laws. While Texas employers prefer a national standard to ensure consistency across all states, we believe that Texas could and should lead the country in a data privacy model that becomes the national framework.

The businesses community supports legislation to ensure transparency for consumers and give the consumer clear and balanced rights to control their personal information, which HB 4 accomplishes.

We also hope and request that the data privacy requirements in House Bill 4 are the only such data privacy mandates put on Texas businesses during the remaining 25 days of this session. House Bill 4 has been a three-session effort with significant, multi-session stakeholder engagement and complex issue conversations.

This bill also provides protections for minors under the age of 13, requiring that data of minor is treated as “sensitive”. Therefore, prohibiting controllers from processing a minor’s data without obtaining parental consent - in accordance with COPPA (the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act). HB 4 would also allow a legal guardian of a child to exercise consumer rights on their behalf – like correcting data, deleting data, and obtaining data, opting out of targeting advertising.

I'd like to reiterate that every Texas business has a technology component, and we appreciate your work on this legislation on behalf of Texas employers and the Texas State Chamber of Commerce.

Sincerely,

Megan Mauro  
SVP, Policy and Advocacy  
Texas Association of Business