

California lawmakers are planning to infuse the California attorney general's office with money and staff to help it write regulations under the state's new online privacy law.

The law, A.B. 375, lets consumers learn what information companies are collecting about them, whether it's being sold, and to whom. Consumers also can demand that companies delete their personal information and choose whether companies can sell it.

Attorney General Xavier Becerra's (D) office has told Brown's Department of Finance that the attorney expects to issue its final rules in June 2019, department Assistant Program Budget Manager Josh Gauger told the Senate Budget Committee Aug. 16.

The attorney general must write regulations under the law to update the categories of personal information that fall under it and to govern how consumers and businesses comply. The attorney general must also develop and offer a uniform opt-out logo and button for businesses to post and offer to consumers, and provide advice about compliance with the law upon request.

Becerra's office told lawmakers during debate on the privacy legislation that he lacked funding and staff to launch the sweeping regulation project. Under a legislative proposal, the attorney general's office would get \$700,000 and five staff positions to work on the regulations for the new law, which was enacted in June and takes effect Jan. 1, 2020. The funding boost appeared Aug. 15 in two budget bills the legislature is likely to send to the desk of Gov. Jerry Brown (D) by Aug. 31.

Proposed new funding for the regulatory project is included in A.B. 1828 and S.B. 862. Both bills are part of the state's overall budget package for the current fiscal year and would take effect immediately if enacted.

Push for Delay

The timeline doesn't acknowledge an Aug. 6 request from an array of state and national business groups for lawmakers to delay formulation of regulations until the start of 2020. The groups also want to push back the law's compliance date the law until one year after the rules are complete.

The business groups, with members that include Google Inc., Amazon.com and Facebook Inc., are pushing lawmakers to delay implementation of the new law. They are working to get the delay into a technical corrections bill authored by Sen. Bill Dodd (D), S.B. 1121.

Consumer groups are pushing back, telling lawmakers in an Aug. 13 letter that the business groups are seeking major changes to the new law in bad faith.

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