



Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine created CyberOhio to help Ohio businesses and consumers fight back against data security threats. One of CyberOhio's primary objectives is to draft legislation that improves the legal cybersecurity environment in Ohio. CyberOhio's first legislative proposal is called the "Safe Harbor" bill.

- The bill (formally known as SB 220) will help businesses defend against a lawsuit alleging that a data breach was caused by the business's failure to implement reasonable information security controls.
- The Safe Harbor bill will provide businesses with a financial incentive to voluntarily invest and improve their own cybersecurity.
- The bill would not create a minimum cybersecurity standard that could be used against a business. Further, the legislation would not create additional regulations that businesses are required to follow.
- Effective cybersecurity helps businesses prevent costly data breaches, but just as important, better cyber protections save customers from the expense and inconvenience that result from having their personal and financial information compromised.
- To be protected under the Safe Harbor, a business must be proactive and implement and maintain a cybersecurity program that complies with one of eight different industry-recognized cybersecurity frameworks that are listed in the proposed legislation.
- Ohio businesses are involved in a wide variety of industries and can have any number of employees. As a result, the cybersecurity needs for a business vary with the size of the operation and the type of industry that the business engages in. Therefore, the Safe Harbor legislation sets forth factors to assist in determining whether a business's cybersecurity program is appropriate.
- Some of those factors include the size and complexity of the business, the sensitivity of personal information that the business holds, and the resources available to the business.
- The legislation stimulates economic development in Ohio by encouraging businesses of all shapes and sizes to invest in cybersecurity, which will help in keeping the organization's sensitive data and the information collected from their customers safe from cybercriminals.

