



## Weekend News Briefs from CVBT

- Lawmakers work on tougher consumer privacy laws
- Stockton to be site of test electric vehicle program
- And.... “We have the code of the cow’s genome”

Legislators introduce comprehensive consumer privacy bill

Legislation was introduced into the state Legislature on Friday to address concerns about data breach security and internet privacy experienced by California consumers.

It's authored by state Sens. Bill Dodd, D-Napa; Bob Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys, and Assemblyman Ed Chau, D-Monterey Park.

“This is a solid step toward empowering consumers, ensuring they have control over their data and are informed about how it is being used,” says Mr. Dodd. “It also gives them recourse in the event of future breaches, providing a strong incentive for firms to act responsibly.”

Recent data breaches that affected millions – those experienced by Target, Equifax, Cambridge Analytica, and many more – have raised concerns from Internet users around the world. The continued prevalence of such occurrences and uncertainty about what data is being collected has drawn the ire of consumer and public interest groups, while the threat of restrictive regulation worries tech companies, many of which are headquartered in and employ thousands of individuals in California, the lawmakers say.

The legislation would expand the rights of consumers to know what data is being collected about them online, and even to delete it. The bill, which is now in print in the form of

amendments to AB 375 (also on the subject of privacy), would also empower consumers to decline the sale of their information and report violations, which must then be addressed by the violator or risk civil action. It includes protections from Mr. Dodd's existing bill, Senate Bill 1121.

“The idea that a person should have some say about how their personal information can be used, shared or sold is not a controversial question for everyday consumers – it is common sense,” says Mr. Chau, who is chairman of the Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection. “In fact, it is consistent with the right of privacy enshrined in our constitution, and we as Legislators have an obligation to ensure privacy rights for online consumers.”

AB 375 is substantially similar to the circulating ballot initiative on the same subject championed by Alastair Mactaggart, who has agreed to pull his initiative if AB 375 passes by the June 28 deadline. In fact, in some of its provisions, AB 375 would give more privacy protection to consumers than the ballot initiative

would.

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## RTD picked for new PG&E electric vehicle pilot program

In a first for San Joaquin Regional Transit District and Stockton, Pacific Gas and Electric Company says it will conduct an electric vehicle pilot program to support RTD's long-term electric transportation needs with chargers and infrastructure improvements.

Recently approved by the California Public Utilities Commission, this pilot will be a test case for PG&E's new "FleetReady" program, which supports electric charging for customers with medium-duty, heavy-duty, and off-road fleets such as transit agencies, school districts, and delivery fleets.

For this new pilot with San Joaquin RTD, PG&E will test how smart charging and battery storage can lower operating costs and maximize efficiencies for the agency.

Seeking to partner with a transit agency located in a disadvantaged community which already had electric buses and plans for more in the future in order to meet the timelines of the project proposal, PG&E chose RTD.

“Because we already had a plan for adding more electric buses to our fleet and have a long-term goal around electrification, PG&E approached us with this pilot opportunity,” says CEO Donna DeMartino. “Due to our focus on electric transportation, PG&E can jump right into creating the specifics of the pilot, which aligns with our goal of being powered by 100 percent electric vehicles by 2025.”

The budget for this pilot is \$3.35 million, which includes:

- Design of the sites
- Cost of the chargers and battery storage system

- Construction from the electric grid to the chargers and battery system
- Installation of the chargers and battery storage system
- Software for charge management
- Collection of data
- Ongoing analysis and evaluation
- Handbook that other transit agencies can use to learn more about electrification

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New Census data shows size of Uber. Lyft concerts

Nonemployer establishments -- businesses without paid employees -- in the Transportation and Warehousing sector increased by 22.0 percent from 1,528,264 in 2015 to 1,864,990 in 2016, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics. This sector also had the largest percentage increase in receipts, 3.7

percent, from \$83.9 billion in 2015 to \$87.0 billion in 2016.

And they're not all working in warehouses.

The Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation subsector led the growth with an increase of 291,243 establishments, an increase of 50.4 percent. Examples of the Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation subsector include taxi and limousine services, chartered bus, school bus and special needs transportation.

Specifically, the industry Taxi and Limousine Service, which includes ridesharing services, grew by 45.9 percent, an increase of 220,261 establishments. The top three states with the highest growth in nonemployer establishments in this industry are California (adding 38,928 or 43.7 percent), Florida (adding 21,858 or 72.3 percent), and New York (adding 17,378 or 19.7 percent).

A nonemployer business is defined as one that has no paid

employees, has annual business receipts of \$1,000 or more (\$1 or more in the construction industries), and is subject to federal income taxes. Most nonemployers are self-employed individuals operating very small unincorporated businesses, which may or may not be the owner's principal source of income.

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## California Farm Bureau tells Congress to act on immigration reform for farmworkers

The California Farm Bureau Federation says it hopes this past week's failure of an immigration measure in the U.S. House of Representatives will ultimately set the stage for Congress to resolve longstanding inadequacies in agricultural immigration programs that have contributed to chronic employee shortages on farms and ranches.



“Congress must move forward to forge a solution that would work well for farmers, ranchers and their employees throughout the nation,” says CFBF President Jamie Johansson.

He says the California Farm Bureau wants an agricultural visa program that would accommodate people who want to enter the United States legally to do farm work -- and in large-enough numbers to ease the shortages farmers have experienced.

“The new program must also recognize our current, highly skilled immigrant employees and help them gain proper documentation,” he says.

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UC Davis leads cow genomics effort

The cattle industry is the largest agricultural commodity in the

United States, generating more than \$100 billion in farm cash receipts in 2016. Despite cattle's economic importance, scientists still have a long way to go to fully understand mechanisms that govern important genetic traits in the animals such as growth and disease resistance.

Now the University of California, Davis, has been given \$2.5 million over four years by the USDA for a national cow genomics project. The research effort aims to allow the cattle industry to use genetics more efficiently to predict the traits their herds possess.

The bovine genome was first sequenced in 2009 and was one of the largest genomes ever sequenced.

“We have the code of the cow's genome, but we don't know what it means,” says Pablo Ross, an associate professor in the Department of Animal Science at the UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. He will lead the efforts and serve as project director.

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## State releases annual end-of-life count

During the year of 2017, there were 374 California residents who died following ingestion of drugs prescribed to end their lives, according to the annual End of Life Option Act annual report compiled and released by the California Department of Public Health.

Of the 374 individuals, 90.4 percent were more than 60 years of age, 95.2 percent were insured and 83.4 percent were receiving hospice and/or palliative care.

Data in the report comes from required physician reporting forms and California death certificates. State law allows qualified individuals diagnosed with a terminal disease to obtain

and self-administer aid-in-dying drugs. This is the first full year of data reported.