

CSG Policy Academy: Cybersecurity and Privacy

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Five Western legislators joined other colleagues from across the nation in San Francisco November 1st to 3rd to learn about cybersecurity and privacy issues. Both topics have proved salient this past year as demonstrated by the recent security breach from the consumer credit reporting agency, Equifax. The agency maintains financial information on over 88 million businesses and 800 million individual consumers worldwide. Additionally, one of the world's four largest accounting firms, Deloitte, acknowledged a breach in September 2017. Although the breach was made known in September, it likely occurred approximately a year ago and was not discovered by the firm until March 2017. The company's internal email service was infiltrated and the breach may have exposed usernames and passwords, as well as health data and IP addresses. The firm provides support to both private and public sector through their client teams and reported \$37B in revenue last year.



Participants in the academy were offered perspectives on the importance of cybersecurity, data privacy and breach notification processes, threats to elections and critical infrastructure, as well as identify theft scenarios. Throughout the conversation they were encouraged to share their experiences- both challenges and triumphs. States' Chief Information Officers, legal experts, and private sector executives charged with security of their systems all weighed in with lessons learned, new research and patterns, and best practices. Two California legislators, both members of the California Legislative Technology and Innovation Caucus formed in 2016, spoke during topic panels. Assemblymember Ed Chau is Chair of the Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection, and the Select Committee on Emerging Technologies and Innovation. Assemblymember Phil Ting currently serves as the Chair of the Budget Committee and previously served as the Chair of the Revenue and Taxation Committee.

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Policy Academy Series provide state leaders customized training and a "deeper dig" on critical policy topics facing the states. There are two remaining academies this year, both of which will be held in conjunction with the CSG National Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Both will be held December 14, one titled: "Hiring and Retaining Workers with Disabilities" and the other "Making Waves with State Water Policies". If you would like to see the full 2017 schedule and foci, please visit: <http://www.csg.org/events/PolicyAcademies.aspx>