

TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House of Representatives

FROM: Aaron Riggleman, Manager, Government Affairs

DATE: October 1, 2025

RE: **PA Chamber memo: Oppose H.B. 997 – Data Breach Lawsuits**

I write on behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber to respectfully urge opposition to HB 997, which is slated for a final vote today. We want to acknowledge and sincerely appreciate the work that has gone into improving this legislation, particularly the addition of a safe harbor provision. That step reflects a good-faith effort to address concerns from the business community and make the bill stronger.

However, even with this improvement, HB 997 continues to create serious challenges for employers in Pennsylvania. By establishing a new private right of action, the bill shifts enforcement away from the Attorney General's exclusive authority and instead opens businesses to lawsuits from private parties. It also includes statutory damages, which allow individuals to recover more than their actual harm and significantly increase the risk of costly litigation. In addition, the bill prohibits the use of arbitration agreements, despite their proven track record of resolving disputes fairly, more quickly, and at lower cost than litigation.

For these reasons, the legislation would substantially expand legal liability and compliance costs for companies operating in Pennsylvania. While we greatly appreciate the work to make the bill better, these remaining issues prevent us from being able to support HB 997.

Thank you for considering our views on this legislation. Please contact Aaron Riggleman at ariggleman@pachamber.org or 724-640-3290 with questions or to discuss further.

[Click here](#) to check the PA Chamber Legislative Scorecard.
