



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

June 26, 2024

FILED

2024 JUN 26 PM 5:03

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

Secretary Cord Byrd
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Byrd:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8 of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby veto and transmit my objection to Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 473 (CS/CS/HB 473), enacted during the 126th Session of the Legislature of Florida during the Regular Session 2024 and entitled:

An act relating to Cybersecurity Incident Liability

CS/CS/HB 473 provides broad liability protections for state and local governments and private companies that only substantially comply with minimum cybersecurity standards in the event of a data breach or other cybersecurity event.

As passed, the bill could result in Floridians' data being less secure as the bill provides across-the-board protections for only substantially complying with standards. This incentivizes doing the minimum when protecting consumer data. While my Administration has prioritized policies to reduce frivolous litigation, the bill before me today may result in a consumer having inadequate recourse if a breach occurs.

I encourage interested parties to coordinate with the Florida Cybersecurity Advisory Council to review potential alternatives to the bill that provide a level of liability protection while also ensuring critical data and operations against cyberattacks are protected as much as possible – and the disruption that comes with the release of potentially sensitive information.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of CS/CS/HB 473 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Ron DeSantis, written in a cursive style.

Ron DeSantis
Governor