



## Missouri House of Representatives

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### **State Representative Brad Christ Files Legislation to Protect Privacy of Biometric Information**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – State Representative Brad Christ has filed House Bill 500, the "Biometric Information Privacy Act," aimed at safeguarding the biometric data of Missouri citizens from misuse, unauthorized collection, and exploitation.

Biometric identifiers—such as fingerprints, facial scans, voiceprints, and other unique physical characteristics—are increasingly used in everyday transactions and services. However, these highly sensitive forms of personal data are vulnerable to misuse if not properly protected. HB 500 seeks to ensure that private entities collecting biometric information do so responsibly and transparently.

“With technology advancing at a rapid pace, it’s essential that we put protections in place to ensure that our constituents’ most personal data is handled responsibly,” Christ, R-St. Louis, said.

“Missourians deserve to know how their biometric information is being used, who has access to it, and how it will be protected.”

HB 500 establishes clear guidelines for how private entities collect, store, and dispose of biometric data. Key provisions of the bill include:

- **Transparency and Consent:** Before collecting biometric information, private entities must inform individuals in writing about what data is being collected and the purpose of collection. Written consent must be obtained from individuals before data can be collected.
- **Retention and Destruction Policies:** Entities must have a publicly available retention schedule and destroy biometric data when the purpose for collection has been fulfilled or within one year of the last interaction with the individual.
- **Prohibition on Profiting from Data:** Private entities are barred from selling, leasing, or profiting from biometric information.
- **Secure Storage Requirements:** Entities must store biometric data securely, in compliance with best practices for protecting sensitive information.

- **Legal Recourse:** Individuals whose biometric data is misused or mishandled have the right to take legal action. Courts can award damages of up to \$5,000 per violation, as well as attorney's fees and other legal costs.

The bill also provides exceptions for the disclosure of biometric information, such as when required by law or to complete a financial transaction authorized by the individual.

Christ emphasized the importance of giving Missourians control over their biometric data. "Our biometric information is unique to each of us. Unlike a password, it cannot be changed if compromised. This bill empowers individuals to safeguard their privacy while holding companies accountable for handling this data responsibly."

*Representative Brad Christ, a Republican, represents part of St. Louis County (District 96) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Christ at 573-751-2150 or by email at [Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov](mailto:Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov).*

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