

CHAPTER 294

AN ACT concerning State agencies and redaction of certain signatures and supplementing P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.52:18A-233.5 Study, impact, redacting person's handwritten signature, published online; report to Governor, Legislature.

1. a. The Chief Technology Officer, in consultation with the Office of Information Privacy in the Department of Community Affairs, shall conduct a study on the impact of redacting a person's handwritten signature on any document published on the Internet websites of State agencies, and shall prepare and submit a written report, within one year of the effective date of this act, P.L.2023, c.294 (C.52:18A-233.5), to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature, the chairperson of the Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee, and the chairperson of the Senate Commerce Committee, or their successor committees, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) the number of documents across State agency Internet websites containing handwritten signatures;

(2) the resources necessary for State agencies to archive any document published on the agency's Internet website prior to the effective date of this act that display a person's handwritten signature;

(3) the resources necessary to republish documents containing a handwritten signature on State agencies' Internet websites if the State agencies redact the person's handwritten signature;

(4) the implications of these findings on long-term plans for document retention and data security; and

(5) whether further legislation or regulation is necessary to establish protocols by which State agencies may redact a person's handwritten signature on any documents published on the State agencies' Internet websites.

b. Upon concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to this act, the Office of Information Privacy may, through regulation adopted pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act", P.L. 1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), establish protocols by which a required State agency shall redact a person's handwritten signature on any documents published on the State agency's Internet website.

2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day following the date of enactment.

Approved January 16, 2024.