New Cyber Rules for Ohio Local Governments

What You Need to Know Now

Local governments across Ohio will soon be required to adopt new cybersecurity standards under **Amended Substitute House Bill 96**, signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine on **June 30, 2025**. The law—mirroring language from House Bill 283 and Senate Bill 208—goes into effect **September 30th, 2025** and sets forth a statewide cybersecurity framework for **all political subdivisions**.

What's Required Under the New Law?

Cyber Incident Reporting

If a cybersecurity or ransomware incident occurs, local governments must notify:

1. The **Ohio Department of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security** (via OCIC) within **7 days**

2. The **Ohio Auditor of State** within **30 days**

Records associated with incident reports and cybersecurity programs are **not public records**, preserving the security and confidentiality of local systems.

Cyber Program Requirements

Each local government must implement a **cybersecurity program** that protects the **availability, confidentiality, and integrity** of its systems and data. Programs must be aligned with industry best practices such as the **NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF)** and **CIS Controls**, and must include:

- Identification of critical functions and cyber risks

- Response and recovery procedures

- Threat detection and containment strategies

- Cybersecurity training for all staff

- Communication and incident response protocols

Annual Training & Ransomware Restrictions

The law also requires:

- **Annual cybersecurity training** for all employees, like the **FREE** training offered by the **Ohio Persistent Cyber Initiative (O-PCI)**

- A formal **legislative resolution** to approve any **ransomware payment**, with justification as to why it is in the best interest of the jurisdiction

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Support Is Available from CyberOhio and the State of Ohio

Take advantage of the FREE resources the State provides. While direct funding was removed from the final legislation, local governments have access to **state-supported programs** to ease the transition:

- **Ohio Cyber Integration Center (OCIC)** for real-time threat intelligence and incident coordination

- **Ohio Persistent Cyber Initiative (O-PCI)** for free training and exercises

- **Ohio Cyber Reserves** for rapid response assistance during cyber incidents

Visit Cyber.Ohio.gov for more resources for Local Government Entities such as how to implement a Collective Defense Model or the Aggregate Purchase Resource Guide.