
THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 898
Author: Weber Pierson (D)
Amended: 5/5/26
Vote: 21

SENATE PRIV., DIGITAL TECH. & CONS. PROT. COMMITTEE: 7-1, 4/13/26
AYES: Cabaldon, Gonzalez, McNerney, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg, Wiener
NOES: Jones
NO VOTE RECORDED: Ochoa Bogh

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern, Wahab,
Weber Pierson, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

SUBJECT: Connected consumer products

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires manufacturers of connected consumer products to establish minimum guaranteed support timeframes for their products and to disclose support timeframes before purchase and as the product reaches its end of life.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires a manufacturer of a connected device to equip the device with a reasonable security feature or features that are all of the following:
 - a) Appropriate to the nature and function of the device.

- b) Appropriate to the information it may collect, contain, or transmit.
 - c) Designed to protect the device and any information contained therein from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure. (Civil (Civ.) Code § 1798.91.04(a).)
- 2) Provides that subject to all of the above requirements, if a connected device is equipped with a means for authentication outside a local area network, it shall be deemed a reasonable security feature if the preprogrammed password is unique to each device manufactured or the device contains a security feature that requires a user to generate a new means of authentication before access is granted to the device for the first time. (Civ. Code § 1798.91.04(b).)
 - 3) Defines “connected device” as any device or other physical object that is capable of connecting to the Internet, directly or indirectly, and that is assigned an Internet Protocol address or Bluetooth address. (Civ. Code § 1798.91.05.)
 - 4) Establishes the Unfair Competition Law (UCL), which provides a statutory cause of action for any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue, or misleading advertising, including over the internet. (Business (Bus.) & Professions (Prof.) Code § 17200 et seq.)
 - 5) Requires actions for relief pursuant to the UCL be prosecuted exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction by specified parties. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 17204.)
 - 6) Establishes the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act, which sets forth standards for warranties that govern consumer goods and outlines remedies available to purchasers. The Act requires every sale of consumer goods that are sold at retail in this state to be accompanied by the manufacturer’s and the retail seller’s implied warranty that the goods are merchantable. (Civ. Code § 1790 et seq.)

This bill:

- 1) Requires a manufacturer to clearly and prominently establish and disclose to any prospective buyer of a connected consumer product a minimum guaranteed support timeframe in both of the following ways:
 - a) At the point of internet sale, if practicable.
 - b) In a clear and conspicuous manner on the product packaging and on the manufacturer’s website or product-specific webpage.

- 2) Provides that the minimum guaranteed support timeframe shall be no less than five years with the starting point being calculated from the first month in which the manufacturer offers the product for sale to consumers.
- 3) Prohibits a manufacturer from reducing the minimum guaranteed support timeframe.
- 4) Requires a manufacturer to provide a notice of a connected consumer product's end of life to the public and to any owner of the product six months before the product reaches end of life and the date on which the product reaches end of life.
- 5) Provides that the above notification shall include clear information about any action a consumer can take if the consumer wants to continue using the connected consumer product in a secure and effective manner and provide a list of features lost, security risks, reduced interoperability, or any other changes that are likely to result from the connected consumer product's end of life. The notification must be in a separate document that contains no other information or notification.
- 6) Requires a business that owns or controls a connected consumer product that it leases or otherwise provides to its customers as part of a service to do both of the following:
 - a) Ensure that updates provided by the manufacturer for the connected consumer product are promptly received and applied.
 - b) When the connected consumer product has reached its end of life, replace the connected consumer product, at no additional cost to the customer, with a comparable product capable of receiving necessary updates and support if a comparable product is reasonably available to the business.
- 7) Deems a violation a deceptive act or practice under the UCL.
- 8) Defines the relevant terms:
 - a) "Connected consumer product" means a physical product, including a mobile application or cloud infrastructure related to the functioning of the physical product, that is intended for consumer use and depends for its functioning on a connection to the internet.
 - b) "End of life" means the point after which the manufacturer no longer provides necessary support or updates for a connected consumer product.

- c) “Manufacturer” means the manufacturer of a connected consumer product sold at retail in the state.
- d) “Minimum guaranteed support timeframe” means the minimum amount of time for which a company commits to providing all necessary updates and support to a connected consumer product that includes a specific date at the end of the timeframe.

Background

According to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST):

The Internet of Things has unlimited possibilities for home and business use. Appliances from refrigerators to sensor networks are now available in models that interact with a wireless network, making them easier to control with a computer or smartphone. Estimates suggest that there will be more than 75 billion IoT devices in use by 2025, according to IHS Markit.

Along with this massive market adoption of IoT, though, comes a trove of security concerns that necessitate attention and action.¹

The billions of connected devices have varied functionality and implemented various levels of security. Existing law requires connected devices to be equipped with reasonable security features that are appropriate for the device, as provided. However, concerns have arisen that such devices are widely in use around the world but that consumers are ill-prepared and uninformed when manufacturers no longer provide security updates and full functionality for these devices. This bill requires manufacturers of connected consumer products to disclose to consumers a minimum guaranteed support timeframe of no less than five years and to notify consumers as the product is reaching its end of life. Those businesses leasing or providing customers with such products must ensure the products are updated promptly and replaced when no longer supported.

This bill is author sponsored. It is supported by various organizations, including Consumer Reports and CALPIRG. The Consumer Technology Association opposes this bill. For a more thorough analysis, please see the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee analysis of this bill, which is incorporated herein by reference.

¹ Security Guide, *Internet of Things (IoT)*, NIST, <https://www.nccoe.nist.gov/iot>. All internet citations are current as of May 7, 2026.

Comments

Given the critical risks of unsecured connected devices, this bill places several obligations on manufacturers of “connected consumer products,” defined as a physical product, including a mobile application or cloud infrastructure related to the functioning of the physical product, that is intended for consumer use and depends for its functioning, in whole or in part, on a connection to the internet.

First, this bill requires manufacturers to establish a “minimum guaranteed support timeframe,” defined as the minimum amount of time for which a company commits to providing all necessary updates and support to a connected consumer product that includes a specific date at the end of the timeframe. They must disclose this timeframe to prospective buyers both at the point of internet sale, if practicable, and in a clear and conspicuous manner on the product packaging and on the manufacturer’s website or product-specific webpage. This support timeframe cannot be reduced.

Next, manufacturers must also provide a notice to the public and to any owner of the product six months before the product reaches end of life and the date upon which the product reaches end of life. “End of life” means the point after which the manufacturer no longer provides necessary support or updates for a connected consumer product. In order to ensure that these notices are clear and not buried with other information, the notification must be provided in a separate document that contains no other information or notification.

Finally, this bill requires a business that owns or controls a connected consumer product that it leases or otherwise provides to its customers as part of a service to do both of the following:

- Ensure that updates provided by the manufacturer for the connected consumer product are promptly received and applied.
- When the connected consumer product has reached its end of life, replace the connected consumer product, at no additional cost to the customer, with a comparable product capable of receiving necessary updates and support if a comparable product is reasonably available to the business.

This latter provision is intended to address those situations where a consumer does not directly purchase the product and therefore puts the responsibility on businesses that are leasing or providing such products. Consumers rely on the functionality and software of leased products just as they do for products they own.

Any violations are deemed deceptive acts or practices pursuant to the UCL.

According to the author:

Connected “smart” products have become increasingly common in households across California, many of which rely on ongoing software updates to receive all necessary support. Consumers should know in advance and on the date when a manufacturer ultimately stops providing these critical updates, as their products may lose promoted or integral features, become vulnerable to security risks, or stop working altogether.

A manufacturer’s failure to clearly disclose the duration of their software support commitments warrants action. Current law does not require this transparency, leaving consumers without essential information about the products they have invested in. Research from the Federal Trade Commission found that nearly 90 percent of manufacturers of common connected products failed to disclose how long those devices would receive software updates or support on their product’s webpages. Even when information is available, it is often not clearly provided at the point of sale or consistently and easily accessible before and after purchase.

SB 898 establishes a clear transparency framework to advance consumer education. By requiring manufacturers to disclose a minimum guaranteed support time frame and provide notice when a product reaches its end of life, this bill ensures that consumers can make fully informed purchasing and operational decisions about the products they rely on every day.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Unknown, potentially significant court cost pressure if the Attorney General (AG) brings civil actions for violations against any person who engages in a deceptive act or practice. Actual costs will depend on the number of actions filed and the amount of time needed to adjudicate each case. Jury trials would likely be few.

Unknown, likely significant court cost pressure as the UCL permits private plaintiffs and there are thousands of CCP’s sold annually that may contain end of life or timeframe functions subject to action. Although courts are not funded based

on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts. The proposed FY 2026-07 Governor's budget would provide \$70 million General Fund support (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/14/26)

CALPIRG

Center for Democracy and Technology

Consumer Reports

iFixit

Secure Resilient Future Foundation INC.

The Repair Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/14/26)

Consumer Technology Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: Consumer Reports writes:

This bill would help consumers to make informed purchases by requiring manufacturers to put a minimum guaranteed support time frame on product web pages, and disclose that time frame at the point of purchase. It also would require manufacturers to proactively let consumers know when a connected device loses support. These two simple provisions would greatly improve cybersecurity by ensuring consumers can more effectively choose and use supported devices, which in turn will greatly reduce the number of unsupported devices on the internet that are available for cyberattacks.

From a marketplace perspective, requiring all manufacturers to specify a minimum guaranteed support time frame creates a level playing field for competition, so that companies that disclose information on end of product life are not undercut by companies who don't. It also will likely push smart device manufacturers to compete on device longevity. We have seen this play out over the last decade in smartphones with stated software support time frames going from two or three years to seven years. That increase in support time frames boosted smartphone longevity, and reduced e-waste.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: The Consumer Technology Association writes:

CTA supports initiatives that empower consumers with greater transparency, including meaningful information about the technology they purchase. However, CTA respectfully opposes SB 898 because, in its current form, the bill imposes disclosures that will create confusion for consumers, inconsistent compliance burdens for companies, and unintended market distortions.

CTA supports consumer transparency regarding product lifecycle, security updates, and support commitments. When consumers understand how long products will receive updates and how vulnerabilities are managed, they can make better purchasing and security decisions.

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