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Privacy hacks

Democratic lawmakers in California are quietly attacking their own landmark privacy law

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The California Consumer Privacy

Act was hailed as a milestone for reining in secret data-mining. But the law doesn't go into effect until 2020, and that's given lobbyists for Big Tech a chance to pull its teeth.

Privacy advocates say that, so far, more Democratic lawmakers are lining up to actually help that effort rather than stop it.

A BIG JOB: POLICING BIG TECH

Signed into law in 2018, the CCPA empowers consumers to block companies from collecting and selling their personal information without their permission. The CCPA also gives consumers the right to insist that a business delete their personal information if they have it already. The California Attorney General's Office will start enforcing compliance in July 2020.

Given that tech giants such as Facebook, Google and Twitter and many start-ups—profit almost exclusively from harvesting users' personal information, Attorney General Xavier Becerra has said that his team may struggle to keep up with a deluge of violations. That's partly why Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks,