

## Side-by-Side Comparison

### Vermont Computer Crime Statute Modernization

(13 V.S.A. Chapter 87)

Current Law	Proposed Amendment	Purpose / Effect
<p>§ 4101 – <b>Access</b> defined as approaching, instructing, communicating with, storing data in, retrieving data from, or otherwise making use of computer resources.</p>	<p>Expands definition to include access to a <b>computer, computer system, cloud service, or computer network.</b></p>	<p>Ensures the statute covers <b>cloud platforms, remote infrastructure, and distributed systems.</b></p>
<p>§ 4101 – <b>Computer</b> defined as an electronic or magnetic data processing device performing logical, arithmetic, or storage functions.</p>	<p>Expands definition to include <b>groups of devices, mobile devices, embedded systems, and Internet-connected devices (IoT).</b></p>	<p>Modernizes language so the statute applies to <b>smart devices, servers, and network appliances.</b></p>
<p>§ 4101 – <b>Computer Network</b> defined as interconnection of communication lines with computers through remote terminals or interconnected computers.</p>	<p>Updated to define a network as <b>interconnected computers or communication devices used to transmit, receive, store, or process data.</b></p>	<p>Reflects modern networking concepts beyond dial-up or terminal-based systems.</p>
<p>§ 4101 – <b>Computer System</b> defined generally as related computer equipment or software.</p>	<p>Clarifies system includes <b>hardware, software, firmware, storage devices, and network resources.</b></p>	<p>Provides broader coverage of <b>modern computing environments.</b></p>
<p>§ 4101 – <b>Data</b> defined as formalized information processed by a computer system or network.</p>	<p>Expands definition to include <b>software, programs, databases, and digital material stored or transmitted via computers or cloud services.</b></p>	<p>Ensures coverage of <b>modern digital assets and software environments.</b></p>
<p>(No explicit definition)</p>	<p><b>New definition: “Cloud service.”</b></p>	<p>Recognizes <b>cloud computing infrastructure (AWS-</b></p>

Current Law	Proposed Amendment	Purpose / Effect
<i>(No explicit definition)</i>	<b>New definition: “Malicious code.”</b>	<p><b>type services)</b> now central to computing.</p> <p>Enables prosecution of <b>malware, ransomware, spyware, and viruses.</b></p>
<i>(No explicit definition)</i>	<b>New definition: “Protected computer.”</b>	<p>Adds heightened protection for <b>government systems, interstate systems, and critical infrastructure.</b></p>
<i>(No explicit definition)</i>	<b>New definition: “Personal identifying information.”</b>	<p>Aligns cybercrime statute with <b>modern data breach and identity theft concepts.</b></p>
<p><b>§ 4102 – Computer crime:</b> knowingly accessing a computer, system, or network without authorization.</p>	<p>Adds unauthorized access to <b>cloud services</b> and modern systems.</p>	<p>Ensures modern computing infrastructure is covered.</p>
<p><b>§ 4102 – Obtaining, altering, damaging, or destroying data or programs.</b></p>	<p>Adds <b>deleting data and encrypting systems</b> (ransomware behavior).</p>	<p>Addresses modern cyberattack techniques.</p>
<p><b>§ 4102 – Disrupting or denying computer services.</b></p>	<p>Clarifies this includes <b>denial-of-service and similar attacks.</b></p>	<p>Covers common modern cyberattacks used to disable services.</p>
<i>(No explicit provision)</i>	<b>New offense: introducing malicious code.</b>	<p>Criminalizes <b>malware deployment or system compromise tools.</b></p>
<i>(No explicit provision)</i>	<b>New offense: obtaining or exposing personal identifying information through digital intrusion.</b>	<p>Addresses <b>large-scale data breaches and identity theft via hacking.</b></p>

Current Law	Proposed Amendment	Purpose / Effect
<i>(No explicit provision)</i>	<b>New offense: using computers in schemes to defraud or extort.</b>	Explicitly covers <b>cyber fraud, ransomware extortion, and online schemes.</b>
<i>(No aggravated cybercrime provision)</i>	<b>§ 4103 – Aggravated computer crime</b> for attacks causing >\$5,000 damage, affecting critical infrastructure, exposing large datasets, or using ransomware.	Creates <b>enhanced penalties for major cyberattacks</b> similar to federal law.

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