

Greater email privacy won't hinder law enforcement

November 29 2012, by Richard Lardner

(AP)—Legal experts say Senate legislation billed as a major step forward in protecting the privacy of electronic communications won't keep law enforcement agencies from combing through inboxes if they believe a crime has been committed.

The legislation, which the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) is scheduled to consider Thursday, would update a 26-year-old law by requiring police to secure a search warrant from a judge before accessing the content of all emails and other private information from [Google](#), Yahoo and other Internet providers. Under the current law, the 1986 Electronic Communications Privacy Act, a warrant is needed only for emails less than 6 months old.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the Democratic committee chairman, says the change would "remedy the erosion of the public's privacy rights under the rapid advances of technology."

Copyright 2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Greater email privacy won't hinder law enforcement (2012, November 29) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-11-greater-email-privacy-wont-hinder.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--