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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 778 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, MILLARD, COHEN, V. BROWN, BISHOP,  
READSHAW, SWANGER, D. COSTA, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, QUINN, DERMODY  
AND DENLINGER, APRIL 9, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, APRIL 9, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 comprehensive study on the Commonwealth's cyber security  
3 efforts and protocols to protect private information of our  
4 citizens.

5 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth collects and possesses sensitive  
6 personal information about the residents of this Commonwealth  
7 through various State programs and routine administrative  
8 activities that are conducted by Commonwealth agencies and their  
9 contractors; and

10 WHEREAS, Recent headlines in the news about third parties  
11 hacking into retail and private corporate computer systems and  
12 the resulting compromise of personal information about customers  
13 is a grave concern; and

14 WHEREAS, It is necessary for the Commonwealth to be vigilant  
15 in protecting the personal information of its residents through  
16 adequate cyber security measures; and

17 WHEREAS, The level of cyber security efforts and protocols in  
18 this Commonwealth needs to be determined to assess risk and to

1 implement the best available safeguards of personal information;  
2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
4 State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive study on  
5 the extent to which all branches of the Commonwealth government,  
6 including their contractors and subcontractors, implement cyber  
7 security efforts and protocols directed at safeguarding the  
8 personal information of residents of this Commonwealth; and be  
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That the study review Statewide standards and  
11 protocols that serve as the framework for cyber security  
12 protection to determine:

13 (1) whether or not these standards and protocols are in  
14 place for the myriad of State offices that exist throughout  
15 this Commonwealth; and

16 (2) if funding and resources are sufficient to maintain  
17 and enhance security hardware, software, personnel and  
18 training to remain vigilant against evolving threats;

19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the study review the coordination of State  
21 information technology personnel involved in cyber security,  
22 including:

23 (1) whether or not they routinely examine the  
24 capabilities of the security systems to protect against cyber  
25 attacks;

26 (2) safeguards and restrictions placed on inter-agency  
27 sharing of State data and information;

28 (3) safeguards and restrictions placed on data and  
29 information sharing between State and local government  
30 agencies; and

1           (4) if there are resources available for continuing  
2       education of the information technology personnel;  
3 and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the study review the Commonwealth's standards  
5 and protocols as they apply to private entities that contract  
6 with the State; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the study review best practices in cyber  
8 security protection, including those used by Federal and other  
9 states' government; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That the study determine if the Commonwealth would  
11 benefit from routine peer reviews of its cyber security  
12 protections, including input solicited from academic and private  
13 sector experts; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That the study determine if current laws are  
15 adequate regarding public notification of data breaches,  
16 including privacy rights for residents of the Commonwealth, and  
17 the Commonwealth's strategic plan for cyber security and  
18 contingencies if a data breach occurs; and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That the commission consult with the Governor's  
20 Office for Information Technology in preparing the study; and be  
21 it further

22       RESOLVED, That the commission report its findings from the  
23 study to the General Assembly within one year of the adoption of  
24 this resolution.