PRINTER'S NO. 369

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 70

Session of 2007

INTRODUCED BY PRESTON, GODSHALL, ADOLPH, BAKER, BOYD, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, ELLIS, FAIRCHILD, GEORGE, GERGELY, HARHAI, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, MANN, McGEEHAN, PALLONE, RAMALEY, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SAINATO, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, STAIRS, THOMAS AND YOUNGBLOOD, FEBRUARY 9, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 9, 2007

A RESOLUTION

Establishing a select committee to investigate and review the policies, procedures and practices in place by the various Commonwealth agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, councils, departments and offices and the entities they license or regulate to protect the personal health, financial and other sensitive data of the citizens of this Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation, causing more than $2 billion in losses to consumers, businesses and government bodies in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly is committed to the protection of the personal health, financial and other sensitive data of the residents of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The dramatic increase in computer interconnectivity and Internet usage are changing the way the Commonwealth and the nation are communicating and conducting business; and

WHEREAS, Without proper safeguards, this interconnectivity poses tremendous risks that make it easier for individuals and

groups to gain access to improperly protected systems within Commonwealth agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, councils, departments and offices and the entities they license or regulate; and

WHEREAS, Those agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, councils, departments and offices and the entities they license or regulate have critical facilities that support the processing, storage and transmission of personal health, financial and other sensitive data; and

WHEREAS, The public's trust and confidence that those agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, councils, departments and offices and the entities they license or regulate are protecting personal health, financial and other sensitive data is critical to carrying out the mission and laws of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Potential information security weaknesses within those agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, councils, departments and offices and the entities they license or regulate can place critical State operations and programs at risk for disruption, fraud and inappropriate disclosure of health, financial and other sensitive data; and

WHEREAS, HR 351 of the 2005-2006 legislative session, adopted July 1, 2005, established a select committee to investigate and review policies, procedures and practices to determine if the appropriate and necessary information security is in place in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The select committee submitted a report of its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives on November 28, 2006; and

WHEREAS, The select committee recommended that the House of

Representatives extend the authority of the select committee for one year to further investigate and review the policies, procedures and practices currently in place in various Commonwealth agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, councils, departments and offices and the entities they license or regulate to protect personal health, financial and other sensitive data of the citizens of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives establish a select committee to investigate and review the policies, procedures and practices in place by the various Commonwealth agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, councils, departments and offices and the entities they license or regulate to determine if they have appropriate and necessary information security in place to:

(1) protect their information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification or destruction;

(2) protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of that information and their information systems;

(3) meet industry, public and private sector and Federal best practices;

(4) meet all Federal and State laws and rules and regulations;

(5) determine if authority has been properly delegated to appropriate personnel in order to ensure compliance with any information security programs and all Federal and State laws;

(6) conduct regular risk assessments to assess and

adjust any information security programs to meet current threats;

(7) periodically test and evaluate information security controls and techniques; and

(8) ensure that information security programs and all Federal and State laws and regulations are effectively implemented;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the select committee consist of 30 members of the House of Representatives, 17 members from the majority party and 13 members from the minority party; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint 17 members of the House of Representatives, including the chairman of the select committee, from the Consumer Affairs Committee, the Commerce Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the State Government Committee and the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives appoint 13 members of the House of Representatives from the Consumer Affairs Committee, the Commerce Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the State Government Committee and the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the select committee hold hearings, take testimony and make its investigation at such places as it deems necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if the select committee determines that testimony it is about to receive is of a confidential nature or would disclose practices which, if made public, may compromise security measures already in place or which may be put in place

in the future, the select committee be permitted to close the hearing to the public, but only for the duration of such confidential or security sensitive testimony; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the ordinary and reasonable expenses incurred by the select committee be paid from accounts under the control of the Chief Clerk; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the select committee submit a report of its findings together with its recommendations for any appropriate legislation or other action to the House of Representatives not later than November 30, 2008.