

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2672 Session of  
2000

INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, JULY 31, 2000

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JULY 31, 2000

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment of the Joint Commission on  
2 Science and Technology and providing for its powers and  
3 duties; and further providing for the operation of the  
4 Central Management and Information Center.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Joint  
9 Commission on Science and Technology Act.

10 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

11 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

12 (1) There should be a balance of power among the  
13 branches of State government and political subdivisions on  
14 science and technology.

15 (2) There should be equitable access for the branches of  
16 State government and for political subdivisions to data and  
17 information pertaining to emerging technologies.

18 (3) The Central Management and Information Center shall

1 continue to provide services for the Governor's Office, and  
2 the Governor shall retain the power to appoint the Chief  
3 Information Officer; however, the center shall cooperate with  
4 the Joint Commission on Science and Technology.

5 Section 3. Definitions.

6 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
7 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
8 context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 "Center." The Central Management and Information Center  
10 referred to in section 4.

11 "Chief Information Officer." The head officer of the center  
12 appointed under section 4(a)(2).

13 "Commission." The Joint Commission on Science and Technology  
14 established under section 5.

15 "Consortium." The Consortium of Pennsylvania's Colleges  
16 established under Executive Order 1988-10.

17 "Deputy Information Officer." The assistant officer of the  
18 Central Management and Information Center appointed under  
19 section 4(a)(3).

20 Section 4. Center.

21 (a) Operation.--

22 (1) The center shall operate under the jurisdiction of  
23 the Governor.

24 (2) The Governor shall appoint the Chief Information  
25 Officer to head the center.

26 (3) The Governor shall appoint the Deputy Information  
27 Officer to assist the Chief Information Officer.

28 (b) Reports.--The center shall submit a biannual report to  
29 the commission providing information and recommendations for the  
30 study of relevant technological issues.

1 Section 5. Commission.

2 (a) Establishment.--The Joint Commission on Science and  
3 Technology is established. The commission shall consist of 11  
4 members, as follows:

5 (1) The Chief Information Officer and the Deputy  
6 Information Officer.

7 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate or a  
8 designee and the Minority Leader of the Senate or a designee.

9 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or a  
10 designee and the Minority Leader of the House of  
11 Representatives or a designee.

12 (4) Two judges or justices, appointed by the Chief  
13 Justice of the Supreme Court or delegates designated by each  
14 appointee.

15 (5) Three representatives of the private sector,  
16 appointed by the consortium. Under this paragraph, one  
17 representative should be from the field of medicine and one  
18 representative should be from the field of communications.

19 (b) Meetings.--

20 (1) Six members of the commission constitute a quorum.

21 (2) Meetings may be called at the request of any member  
22 of the commission.

23 (3) Meetings shall be open to the public.

24 (c) Powers and duties.--The commission shall have the power  
25 and its duty shall be to:

26 (1) Discuss costs for emerging technologies and the  
27 possibilities of consolidating those costs among the branches  
28 of State government.

29 (2) Study emerging technologies which present detailed  
30 issues to be addressed.

1           (3) Discuss information security and equitable access  
2 among the branches of State government and among political  
3 parties.

4           (4) Receive technology counsel from available research  
5 facilities during the preparation of compact legislation on  
6 technology.

7           (5) Study emerging technologies which have an impact on  
8 the law.

9           (6) Study issues on personal privacy and abuses of  
10 information collection.

11           (7) Prepare legislation on technology which considers  
12 and honors existing contracts from technology providers.

13           (8) Serve as a legal task force to recommend and  
14 implement the integration of data systems in State  
15 government.

16           (9) Recommend that the Office of Attorney General  
17 initiate an investigation if information reveals abuses or  
18 illegalities.

19 Section 6. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect in 60 days.