

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2522 Session of  
2012

INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, JUNE 28, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 28, 2012

AN ACT

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

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

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

9 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

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

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

17 (3) The Central Management and Information Center shall  
18 continue to provide services for the Governor's Office, and  
19 the Governor shall retain the power to appoint the Chief

Information Officer; however, the center shall cooperate with the Joint Commission on Science and Technology.

### Section 3. Definitions.

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

"Center." The Central Management and Information Center referred to under section 4.

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

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

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

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

### Section 4. Center.

#### (a) Operation.--

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

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

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

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

### Section 5. Commission.

(a) Establishment.--The Joint Commission on Science and

Technology is established. The commission shall consist of 11 members, as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Meetings.--

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

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

(3) Meetings shall be open to the public.

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

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

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

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

1 parties.

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

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

7 (6) Study issues on personal privacy and abuses of  
8 information collection.

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

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

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

17 Section 6. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect in 60 days.