

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 13

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council to assign to an appropriate study committee the topic of the potential dangers of cyber-hacking in state government, specifically the use of ransomware.

Ford J.D.

January 14, 2020, read first time and referred to Committee on Commerce and Technology.



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MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council
2 to assign to an appropriate study committee the topic of the
3 potential dangers of cyber-hacking in state government,
4 specifically the use of ransomware.

5 *Whereas, According to PEW Research Center, 64% of*
6 *Americans have experienced some type of cyber-hacking or*
7 *breach of data. However, despite the prevalence of*
8 *cyber-hacking, the majority of Americans, 69%, do not worry*
9 *about the security of their personal passwords;*

10 *Whereas, Employees, including state government officials,*
11 *are potential targets of cyber-hacking as demonstrated by the*
12 *cyber-theft of \$4.2 million from the Oklahoma Law*
13 *Enforcement Retirement System in 2019. A hacker perpetrated*
14 *this cyber-theft through the email account of an Oklahoma Law*
15 *Enforcement Retirement System employee;*

16 *Whereas, After a ransomware attack, officials in Riviera*
17 *Beach, Florida paid \$600,000 to regain control over their*
18 *government computers.*

19 *Whereas, In 2019, Isaac Schleifer, a councilman from*



1 *Baltimore, Maryland, estimated the financial cost of*
2 *ransomware attacks in his city to be \$18.2 million;*

3 *Whereas, Ransomware is one example of software that can*
4 *be used to freeze an individual's access to his or her account*
5 *and steal sums of money. According to the Washington Post,*
6 *the United States faces 4,000 ransomware attacks daily. Many*
7 *of these attacks begin through an email phishing scheme. State*
8 *government employees are not immune to these attacks; and*

9 *Whereas, State government officials must be aware of this*
10 *potential cyber-security risk and take precautions against this*
11 *threat of ransomware: Therefore,*

12 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
13 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

14 SECTION 1. That the legislative council is urged to assign
15 to an appropriate study committee the topic of the potential
16 dangers of cyber-hacking in state government, specifically the
17 use of ransomware.

