

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 40

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Secretary of State to assure Legislature and public that State's electoral system is protected from foreign computer hackers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** urging the Secretary of State to assure the
2 Legislature and the public that the State’s electoral system is
3 protected from foreign computer hackers.
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5 **WHEREAS**, In August 2016, it was revealed that the voter registration
6 databases of two states had been hacked by foreign entities seeking
7 to steal the personal information of registered voters; and

8 **WHEREAS**, In Arizona, foreign hackers stole the user name and
9 password of an election official in one county, and in Illinois the
10 hackers actually accessed that state’s voter registration database and
11 stole the personal information of 200,000 registered voters; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Following these events, the Federal Bureau of
13 Investigation alerted all election officials to monitor their electoral
14 systems for intrusion, and to take measures to protect these systems
15 by adopting procedures to limit access only to essential personnel
16 and measures to enhance cyber security; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Election processes and systems are the bedrock of our
18 democracy, and when properly protected, they assure the legitimacy
19 of the outcomes of all local, state, and federal elections; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Foreign intrusion by hackers into election systems and
21 databases in the United States can cast doubts on the integrity of
22 our elections; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The Secretary of State is the Chief Election Official, and
24 oversees the systems and procedures in place at the State and local
25 levels to conduct our elections; and

26 **WHEREAS**, The hacking of election databases that took place in
27 Arizona and Illinois raises questions about whether New Jersey’s
28 election procedures and systems are currently and sufficiently
29 protected against foreign hackers and other unauthorized intrusions;
30 and

31 **WHEREAS**, It is therefore fitting and proper for the Secretary of State
32 to communicate with the Legislature and the public about the
33 measures currently in place to protect our electoral system, and to
34 reassure the citizens of this State that our procedures and systems
35 are safe and protected from foreign hackers and other intrusions;
36 now, therefore,
37

38 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
39 *State of New Jersey:*
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41 1. The Legislature hereby urges the Secretary of State, as the
42 Chief Election Official, to communicate with the Legislature and
43 the public about the measures currently in place to protect our
44 electoral system, and to reassure the citizens of this State that our
45 procedures and systems are safe and protected from foreign hackers
46 and other intrusions.

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1 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
2 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of
3 the General Assembly to each county board of elections and
4 superintendent of elections in this State.

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6 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This resolution urges the Secretary of State to assure the
12 Legislature and the public that the State's electoral system is
13 protected from foreign computer hackers.

14 In August 2016, it was revealed that the voter registration
15 databases of two states had been hacked by foreign entities seeking
16 to steal the personal information of registered voters. In Arizona,
17 foreign hackers stole the user name and password of an election
18 official in one county, and in Illinois the hackers actually accessed
19 that state's voter registration database and stole the personal
20 information of 200,000 registered voters. Foreign intrusion by
21 hackers into election systems and databases in the United States can
22 cast doubts on the integrity of our elections.

23 Therefore, the Secretary of State, as the Chief Election Official,
24 is urged to communicate with the Legislature and the public about
25 the measures currently in place to protect our electoral system, and
26 to reassure the citizens of this State that our procedures and systems
27 are safe and protected from foreign hackers and other intrusions.