

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 201

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to inform the public on telecommunications and Internet surveillance programs concerning national security.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



AR201 DANCER

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1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging Congress to inform
2 the public on telecommunications and Internet surveillance
3 programs concerning national security.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, The right to privacy from government intrusion and the
6 protection from unreasonable searches and seizures have been, and
7 continue to be, vital aspects of the American tradition; and

8 **WHEREAS**, With the current threat of global terrorism, it is important
9 that the federal government be able to exercise the necessary and
10 appropriate powers to deter and prevent acts of terrorism against the
11 United States; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Congress has authorized federal agencies to collect certain
13 telephone and Internet records, data, and metadata as part of
14 surveillance programs concerning national security by enacting
15 legislation such as the USA PATRIOT Act and the Foreign
16 Intelligence Surveillance Act; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The metadata collected from telephone and Internet
18 companies include the date, time, duration, and location of
19 telephone calls, or the digital network information of Internet users;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, Recent news reports regarding the collection of metadata
22 by federal agencies has concerned the public; and

23 **WHEREAS**, To protect privacy rights guaranteed by the federal
24 Constitution, information regarding the federal government's
25 collection and use of records, data, and metadata from
26 telecommunications and Internet companies under surveillance
27 programs should be communicated to the public to the extent that
28 this information does not compromise national security; and

29 **WHEREAS**, It is all together fitting and proper, and in the public
30 interest, for this House to urge Congress to inform the citizens of
31 this country of telecommunications and Internet surveillance
32 programs concerning national security so that the American public
33 may ensure that their privacy rights, guaranteed by the federal
34 Constitution, are not infringed upon; now, therefore,

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36 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
37 *Jersey:*

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39 1. This House respectfully urges the Congress of the United
40 States to inform the citizens of this country of telecommunications
41 and Internet surveillance programs concerning national security so
42 that the American public may ensure that their privacy rights,
43 guaranteed by the federal Constitution, are not infringed upon.

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45 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
46 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
47 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
48 States House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders

1 of the United States Senate and the United States House of
2 Representatives, and each member of the United States Congress
3 elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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8 This resolution urges the Congress of the United States to inform
9 the citizens of this country of telecommunications and Internet
10 surveillance programs concerning national security so that the
11 American public may ensure that their privacy rights, guaranteed by
12 the federal Constitution, are not infringed upon.

13 The right to privacy from government intrusion and the protection
14 from unreasonable searches and seizures have been, and continue to
15 be, important aspects of the American legal tradition. With the current
16 threat of global terrorism, it is important that the federal government
17 be able to exercise the necessary and appropriate powers to deter and
18 prevent acts of terrorism against the United States. Congress has
19 authorized federal agencies to collect certain telephone and Internet
20 records, data, and metadata as part of surveillance programs
21 concerning national security by enacting legislation such as the USA
22 PATRIOT Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The
23 metadata collected from telephone and Internet companies include the
24 date, time, duration, and location of telephone calls, or the digital
25 network information of Internet users. Recent news reports regarding
26 the collection of metadata by federal agencies has concerned many
27 members of the public. To protect privacy rights guaranteed by the
28 federal Constitution, information regarding the federal government's
29 collection and use of records, data, and metadata from
30 telecommunications and Internet companies under surveillance
31 programs should be communicated to the public to the extent that this
32 information does not compromise national security.