

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 86

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 218th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 2018

**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**

As introduced.



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,

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 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.

**AJR86 QUIJANO**

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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.