

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 22

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED JANUARY 25, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NIA H. GILL**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

### **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,

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.

## 3

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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