



House Bill 245

Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to the definition of ‘disaster.’”

Cyber security threats are increasing at an alarming pace. Over the last few years, there have been dozens of cyber security attacks at the local, municipal and state government levels, which have borne upon the safety and operation of services, the privacy of thousands of residents, and cost millions of dollars to the State and private sectors to protect, update and counter any attacks.

According to the National League of Cities, “Governments collect and maintain far more sensitive information than most private sector companies.”

House Bill 245 adds cybersecurity attacks to the definition of disasters that could qualify for an emergency declaration by the Governor. The bill stipulates that the Commissioner of Administration or designee will certify to the Governor of a high probability of an attack occurring in the near future that will affect the State’s information systems and operations. The certification must be grounded on specific information, and the attack or threat must be widespread, just like a natural disaster.

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