

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/06/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/06

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Burdick, Gelser, Kruse, Prozanski, Thatcher

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits person from soliciting, requesting, or inducing another to provide personal information by representing person is third party. Excludes official duties of law enforcement and lawful investigations. Makes violation unlawful trade practice enforceable by Attorney General. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Use of fake websites or fraudulent emails to obtain personal information or money
- Importance of protecting personal information
- Provisions of Unlawful Trade Practices Act
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

“Phishing” is a method of obtaining another’s personal information by posing as a legitimate company or business and requesting personal information. Phishing can come in the form of fraudulent websites, emails claiming to be from a legitimate company seeking to verify the person’s credentials, and by other means. In 2013, technology industry analysts estimate that there were nearly 450,000 phishing attacks worldwide with estimated losses of over \$5.9 billion. The U.S. is the target of over 60 percent of phishing attacks.

House Bill 2377 makes phishing an unlawful trade practice actionable by the Attorney General.