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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 961 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY SACCONI, PHILLIPS-HILL, MILLARD, READSHAW, BAKER,  
TRUITT, KIRKLAND, GROVE, BOBACK, ROTHMAN, WARD, KAUFFMAN,  
SAYLOR, SONNEY, DUSH AND MILNE, JULY 28, 2016

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JULY 28, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing the select subcommittee on Commonwealth Security to  
2 investigate, review and make recommendations concerning the  
3 Commonwealth's policies and programs to keep Pennsylvanians  
4 safe.

5 WHEREAS, The most important responsibility of our State  
6 government is the safety and security of all Pennsylvanians; and

7 WHEREAS, Threats to our national security have grown more and  
8 more sophisticated and deadly; and

9 WHEREAS, The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has in  
10 the last 12 months successfully attacked the United States,  
11 France and Belgium; and

12 WHEREAS, Terrorist groups like ISIS have identified more  
13 effective ways to fund their operations in the West; and

14 WHEREAS, Research from the Federal government shows that  
15 state policies have an impact on national security; and

16 WHEREAS, National security of the United States and the  
17 safety of Pennsylvanians is impacted by the actions of gangs,  
18 drug cartels and rogue nations; and

1       WHEREAS, Reports from the Federal government detail how these  
2 organizations are responsible for dangerous criminal activity,  
3 including smuggling narcotics, arms trafficking, human  
4 trafficking, kidnapping and murder; and

5       WHEREAS, Foreign nations have increased the amount of cyber  
6 attacks on corporations based in the United States to steal  
7 proprietary information; and

8       WHEREAS, Foreign nations have increasingly used cyber attacks  
9 to target government agencies; and

10       WHEREAS, Protecting the security of Pennsylvanians is the top  
11 priority for the Commonwealth and preserving Pennsylvanians'  
12 freedoms requires both vigilance and open discussion; therefore  
13 be it

14       RESOLVED, That the Committee on State Government be  
15 authorized and directed to establish a select subcommittee on  
16 Commonwealth security to do all of the following:

17           (1) Investigate, review and make findings and  
18 recommendations regarding:

19               (i) Current or proposed Commonwealth policies and  
20 their impact on national security and the safety of  
21 Pennsylvanians.

22               (ii) Methods to improve the security of  
23 Pennsylvanians against actions of foreign or domestic  
24 terrorist groups.

25               (iii) Methods to improve cyber security of State  
26 agencies.

27           (2) Discuss and coordinate with Federal and State  
28 agencies policies which assist the efforts of law enforcement  
29 to secure Pennsylvanians from crimes committed by the  
30 following:

- 1 (i) Domestic criminal organizations.
- 2 (ii) International drug cartels.
- 3 (iii) Foreign criminal organizations.
- 4 (iv) Organizations recognized by the Federal
- 5 Government to be a foreign or domestic terrorist group.
- 6 (v) Agents of foreign nations;

7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the select subcommittee consist of six members  
9 of the Committee on State Government, with four members  
10 appointed by the chairperson of the Committee on State  
11 Government and two members appointed by the minority chairperson  
12 of the Committee on State Government; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the chairperson of the Committee on State  
14 Government be an ex officio member of the select subcommittee;  
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the chairperson of the Committee on State  
17 Government appoint the chairperson of the select subcommittee  
18 from among the members of the select subcommittee; and be it  
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the select subcommittee hold hearings, call  
21 witnesses, take testimony and conduct investigations at places  
22 deemed necessary in this Commonwealth, instruct any person to  
23 appear before the select subcommittee to answer questions within  
24 the scope of inquiry by the select subcommittee and to produce  
25 books, papers, records, accounts, reports and documents as the  
26 select subcommittee deems necessary; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Committee on State Government assist the  
28 select subcommittee to the fullest extent possible.