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Senate Bill 175 - Confidential Security Information

Intent: To allow the Governor to identify IT security documents as confidential, and allow for the Nevada Homeland Security Committee to discuss specific vulnerabilities in closed session.

Justification: Documents developed in support of IT security contain information on agency specific controls and procedures to protect critical state information and IT infrastructures from unauthorized access, use and manipulation. Many documents contain information identifying specific risks, vulnerabilities and threats to information and IT systems and the procedures and/or countermeasures an agency has implemented to reduce or eliminate identified risks and threats. Having such a list public amounts to giving the Bad Guys a target list for where to hit us.

Sensitive Document Examples (not exhaustive): Several documents need to be classified as 'sensitive documents' that would fall within the purview of this bill: Security Policies, IT System storage locations, Security Profiles, Risk Assessments, Risk Mitigation Plans, Security Audits, Emergency Response Plans, IT Contingency Plans, and Disaster Recovery Plans.

Making these documents accessible to the general public would mean certain individuals could use this information for evil purposes.

IT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION EXAMPLES

High – Should be Confidential

- IT Security System Plan
- IT Threat Assessments
- IT Security Audit Findings
- IT Security Infrastructure details
- System passwords
- Communications Infrastructure documentation
- State Employee Social Security Information

Low – Should be Available

- All non-security IT system expenses
- Performance information on all non-security IT systems and projects
- All aspects of system designs not related to security
- The names and addresses of paroled violent offenders from system

Questionable – differing opinions due to Secrecy vs. Accountability

- Total statewide budget available for IT security (dollar value)
- Statewide IT Strategic Plan
- State staffing levels for IT Security
- Annual expenditures on IT systems
- A list of vendor's products used by the state for applications (not security or infrastructure)
- State Agency Technology Plans
- Employee Telephone/Email directory – it provides employees names out to the public – some could say for security reasons we shouldn't, some could say that for public service we should provide it