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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE - POST AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Casey, Abney, Tomasso, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: February 26, 2014

Referred To: House Corporations

(Administration)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 35-7 of the General Laws entitled “Post Audit of Accounts” is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **35-7-15. Audit of information security systems.** – (a) The general assembly recognizes
4 that the security of government computer systems is essential to ensuring the stability and
5 integrity of vital information gathered and stored by the government for the benefit of the
6 citizenry and the breach of security over computer systems presents a risk to the health, safety,
7 and welfare of the public. It is the intent of the legislature to insure that government computer
8 systems and information residing on these systems are protected from unauthorized access,
9 compromise, sabotage, hacking, viruses, destruction, illegal use, cyber attack or any other act
10 which might jeopardize or harm the computer systems and the information stored on them.

11 (b) In conjunction with the powers and duties outlined in this chapter, the bureau of
12 audits may conduct reviews and assessments of the various government computer systems and
13 the security systems established to safeguard these computer systems. Computer systems subject
14 to this section shall include systems which pertain to federal, state, or local programs, and quasi-
15 governmental bodies, and the computer systems of any entity or program which is subject to audit
16 by the bureau of audits. The bureau of audit’s review may include an assessment of system
17 vulnerability, network penetration, potential security breaches, and susceptibility to cyber attack
18 and cyber fraud.

19 (c) In the event the review by the bureau of audits indicates a computer system is

1 vulnerable, or security over the system is lacking, those findings shall not be disclosed publicly
2 and shall not be considered public records. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
3 contrary, the work papers developed in connection with the review of the computer system and
4 the security over the system shall not be deemed public records and are not subject to disclosure.
5 The bureau of audit's findings may be disclosed at the discretion of the bureau of audits to the
6 chief information officer and the director of administration. Unless the bureau of audits authorizes
7 the release of information or findings gathered in the conduct of a review of computer system
8 security, all such information shall be deemed classified, confidential, secret, and non-public.

9 (d) In order to maintain the integrity of the computer system, the bureau of audits may
10 procure the services of specialists in information security systems or other contractors deemed
11 necessary in conducting reviews under this section, and in procuring those services shall be
12 exempt from the requirements of the state purchasing law or regulation.

13 (e) Any outside contractor or vendor hired to provide services in the review of the
14 security of a computer system shall be bound by the confidentiality provisions of this section.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would provide that the bureau of audits may conduct reviews and assessments of
2 government computer systems and the security systems that safeguard the computer systems.

3 This act would further provide that in the event the bureau of audits determines a system to be
4 vulnerable or lacking such findings shall not be publicly disclosed or considered a public record.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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