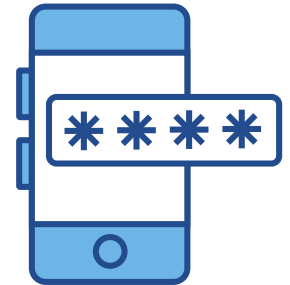




ANTI-HACKING & STUDENT INFO PROTECTION

HB740 - REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT

THE GOAL



This legislation will prevent hackers, spammers and phishers from utilizing the Public Information Act as a guise to access lists of student contact information, thereby helping prevent cyberattacks.

THE CHALLENGE

Institutions are increasingly receiving public information requests for lists of student contact information. Aware of heightened cyber threats, schools have begun providing lists in fonts that are not easily converted into data sets that can be used for hacking, phishing or spamming. While this may stall hackers, it does not stop them.

THE FACTS



- Hundreds of cyberattacks hit universities every year, halting work, hindering education and costing resources.
- The content of emails, mailings and text messages would still be subject to public records requests. This would only prevent contact lists from being provided.
- Virginia recently passed similar legislation in response to spamming that occurred using a cell phone list from a university.