

## HJR 628

Delegate S. Heretick - Patron

### **Recommendations to Address Phishing of Public Employees PII**

Submitted to the FOIA Phishing Subcommittee for Consideration

In an attempt to protect the identity of Virginia's local and state government employees, as well as our citizens who routinely provide personal information when submitting a FOIA request, the City of Portsmouth proposes the following actions for consideration:

- A. Require requestors provide a state identification with the request of data that provides employment data (name, title, salary, email, telephone) for more than five employees in a single request or in the aggregate.
- B. Allow government bodies to require written request for information with an accompanying state identification if the request is made electronically.
- C. Pass legislation that explicitly exempts government bodies from liability should they provide requestor information to law enforcement agencies.
- D. Allow government bodies to provide "*opt-out*" agreements to protect citizens' personal identifiable information (PIII) from FOIA requests. All electronic requests would encounter a page providing Virginia's FOIA regulations for requesting information including notice to citizens regarding their right to not have their information disseminated in a related FOIA request by checking an "*opt-out*" agreement box.
- E. Implement suggestions (A-D) above as stop-gap measures, and commit to conducting a broad study of this complex and growing issue. Other recommendations and actions addressing this matter should ensue at the conclusion of the study.