
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1228 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY McGARRIGLE, MARTIN, GORDNER, VULAKOVICH, KILLION,
SCHWANK, WHITE, MENSCH, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, FOLMER AND
BROWNE, AUGUST 9, 2018

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, AUGUST 9, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in computer offenses, providing for
3 the offense of computer extortion by use of ransomware.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 7617. Computer extortion by use of ransomware.

9 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits the offense of
10 computer extortion by use of ransomware when the person:

11 (1) Introduces ransomware into a computer, computer
12 system or computer network.

13 (2) Demands payment of money or other consideration to
14 remove the ransomware, restore access to the computer,
15 computer system, computer network or data contained on the
16 computer, computer system or computer network or otherwise
17 remediate the impact of the ransomware.

18 (b) Grading.--An offense under this section shall constitute

1 a felony of the third degree.

2 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
3 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
4 subsection:

5 "Computer contaminant." A set of computer instructions
6 designed to modify, damage, destroy, record or transmit data
7 held by a computer, computer system or computer network without
8 the intent or permission of the owner of the data.

9 "Ransomware." A computer contaminant or lock placed or
10 introduced without authorization into a computer, computer
11 system or computer network that restricts access by an
12 authorized person to the computer, computer system, computer
13 network or any data held by the computer, computer system or
14 computer network. The term shall not include authentication
15 required to upgrade or access purchased content or the blocking
16 of access to subscription content in the case of nonpayment for
17 the access.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 30 days.