

Many concerned citizens like myself have likely been keeping track of Covid data via the Maryland Department of Health website. Visiting this MD Dept of health Immunet website even today shows that they are experiencing “a network security incident involving the MDH systems. The incident appears to have affected some of our partners, including local health departments”. On December 4th, 2021 events led to hearings held in January of this year defining these incidents as being ransomware attacks. Also in January, January 18th 2022 to be specific, the FBI released Alert Number I-011822-PSA “to raise awareness of malicious Quick Response (QR) codes. Cybercriminals are tampering with QR codes to redirect victims to malicious sites that steal login and financial information. A QR code is a square barcode that a smartphone camera can scan and read to provide quick access to a website, to prompt the download of an application, and to direct payment to an intended recipient. Businesses use QR codes legitimately to provide convenient contactless access and have used them more frequently during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, cybercriminals are taking advantage of this technology by directing QR code scans to malicious sites to steal victim data, embedding malware to gain access to the victim's device, and redirecting payment for cybercriminal use.” The 117th Congress of 2021-2022 has introduced H.R. 5936 Ransomware and Financial Stability Act of 2021 “to include requirements relating to ransomware attack deterrence for a covered U.S. financial institution in the consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.” However, where are then the mobile ransomware deterrents for everyday people who may at first voluntarily and unknowingly give their information away but then by state mandate as have been ineffective vaccines and boosters? As Senator Paul G. Pinsky has mentioned in January as well, “the question is transparency and integrity - not system integrity, I’m talking about human integrity - who should we trust?” How can we secure our data into one centralized multi-state and even multi-nationally linked database with nonexistent security items with the government when the government is not able to secure our data for us under continued data security pressure as can be seen with the incidents that are ongoing with the MD department of health to this day? Vote no on this bill and S.B.840.

Page 1 Lines 21-22 “Access to the individual’s official state immunization records”

Pages 1-2 Lines 23-2 “the ability to voluntarily and securely display on and transmit through a mobile device proof of the individual’s vaccination for Covid-19 using a smart health card QR code”.

Page 2 Line 4 “has a smart health card QR code that is verified as valid under common trust network requirements for multistate functionality”

Page 2 Line 5 “is compatible with multinational vaccine passport platforms”