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For immediate release

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Sec of State Jim Condos Announces Release of White Paper on Business Identity Theft**

Montpelier, VT – Secretary of State Jim Condos announces the release of a white paper, entitled “Developing State Solutions to Business Identity Theft: Assistance, Prevention and Detection Efforts by Secretary of State Offices.” This report was completed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Business Identity Theft Task Force.

Secretary Condos, a member of this national task force, worked with other Secretaries of State, as well as outside stakeholders including cyber security and identity theft protection experts, law enforcement representatives, and consumer advocates to develop this helpful tool.

This report contains a series of basic recommendations that all states, including Vermont, can follow to help prevent the spread of business identity theft, including:

- Creating a statewide task forces to study business identity theft issues
- Developing a legislative and procedural action plan for protecting state-held business records
- Establishing a notification programs for businesses when public records are updated or changed
- Implementing clear steps for victim assistance and education
- Conducting outreach to raise awareness and urge prevention

“Our office will be working with other Vermont stakeholders to determine the right actions for us to be taking. This is a very difficult crime to prosecute and many states, including Vermont, have not established a strong legal basis for these efforts,” stated Condos.

The NASS white paper on identity theft can be downloaded at [www.nass.org](http://www.nass.org).

*Founded in 1904, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) is the oldest, nonpartisan professional organization of public officials in the United States. Members include the 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa and Puerto Rico.*

*Secretary of State Jim Condos has over 20 years of elected public service, including 18 years at the local level and 8 years as a Vermont State Senator, in addition to more than 30 years of private sector business experience.*

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