

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 21-12

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR THE CREATION OF THE ARKANSAS CYBER
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS: The threat of cyber attacks is one of the most challenging risks of government and industry as evidenced by the most recent cyber attacks on the energy sector and our nation's food supply; and

WHEREAS: Twenty-First century cyber presents not only continuous and evolving risks; but also, significant opportunities for economic development; and

WHEREAS: In order to manage risks and seize opportunities for its citizens and businesses, Arkansas must demonstrate an effective cyber governance structure to support and enhance protections for governmental functions, private security, and economic development; and

WHEREAS: The Arkansas General Assembly enacted the Arkansas Cyber Initiative Act in 2019, authorizing the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to work with public and private entities to establish a cyber alliance, known as the "Arkansas Cyber Initiative", to support collaborations for the purpose of improving cybersecurity and the economy of the state through improving cyber infrastructure; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order the following:

- (1) The Arkansas Economic Development Commission, pursuant to Act 1085 of 2019, shall coordinate with Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services, Division of Information Systems to form the Arkansas Cyber Advisory Council as part of the Arkansas Cyber Initiative. This initiative may include, but is not limited to, the execution of interagency agreements and memorandums of understanding for the appropriate protection of sensitive information this council is expected to generate and analyze.
- (2) The council shall be composed of the following members or his or her designee, and the Director of the Division of Information Systems shall serve as chair of the council:
 - a) Jonathan Askins, Director of the Division of Information Systems and Chief Technology Officer;
 - b) Gary Vance, State Chief Information Security Officer, Division of Information Systems;
 - c) Mike Preston, Secretary of the Department of Commerce;
 - d) Jami Cook, Secretary of the Department of Public Safety;
 - e) Dr. José Romero, Secretary of the Department of Health;
 - f) Cindy Gillespie, Secretary of the Department of Human Services;
 - g) Johnny Key, Secretary of the Department of Education;
 - h) Major General Kendall Penn, Secretary of the Arkansas Military Department;
 - i) Alan McClain, Commissioner, Arkansas Insurance Department;
 - j) A.J. Gary, Director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management;
 - k) Steve Eggensperger, Governor's Office Cybersecurity Liaison; and

l) Lee Watson, Forge Institute.

(3) The council shall have the following duties:

- a) Lead and transform cybersecurity practices in the state by developing a cybersecurity transformation roadmap to include creation of a cybersecurity culture and cybersecurity investment recommendations.
- b) Identify and manage cybersecurity risks with the goal of implementing a broad, statewide approach for cybersecurity;
- c) Improve threat protection capabilities, focusing not only on technological details; but also, addressing the economic and behavioral foundations of security;
- d) Improve threat detection and response capabilities. Establish collaboration among the Division of Information Systems, state agencies, and other necessary entities, and implement protocols utilizing that collaboration for enhanced detection and response; and
- e) Identify future tasks and goals for the council to include strategic goals in education, workforce training, and economic development.
- f) Advise on responses to critical cyber incidents.

(4) The council is expected to provide recommendations to the Governor on operational and executive branch efforts and to the General Assembly for any necessary law changes for improvement to the state's cybersecurity.

(5) The council is encouraged to engage private sector representatives, as appropriate.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 15th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2021.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Attest:



John Thurston, Secretary of State