

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1456

**WHEREAS**, foreign and domestic adversaries are increasingly creating and exploiting vulnerabilities in information and communications technology and services which store and communicate vast amounts of sensitive information, facilitate the digital economy, and support critical infrastructure and vital emergency services, in order to commit malicious cyber-enabled actions; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi and its departments, agencies, institutions, boards, and commissions rely on information and communication technology for operations given many disparate systems of varying age, ranging in levels of security and risk to data and assets; and

**WHEREAS**, coordinated reviews and reporting of the cybersecurity efforts across all state agencies is necessary and additional steps are required to protect the security, integrity, and reliability of information, communications technology and services provided and used by state agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, cybersecurity threats and risks are continually evolving and escalating; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mississippi Enterprise Security Program adopted in 2017 provides for coordinated oversight of cybersecurity efforts including systems, services and development of policies, standards and guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services has led the state's Enterprise Security Program; given the number of agencies and varied technologies and system architectures, enhanced cybersecurity mitigation strategies and solutions are needed to protect and defend the state and its agencies from malicious cyber attacks and other vulnerabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor as the State's Chief Law Enforcement Officer shall see that the laws of Mississippi are faithfully executed pursuant to Miss. Const. art. V, § 123 and Miss. Code Ann. § 7-1-5(c); and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure proper coordination and more effective assessment and implementation of cybersecurity in diverse systems, technology and personnel in state departments, agencies, institutions, boards, and commissions, it is essential that current state cybersecurity strategies and solutions be improved, strengthened and accelerated in preparation for and avoidance of technological and/or man-made cyber related disasters:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

- (1) That a Task Force on State Cybersecurity (the "Task Force") be established. The Task Force shall consist of individuals appointed by the Governor from senior leadership with key agency stakeholders and shall be led by Attorney General Lynn Fitch, who shall serve as its chairperson.
- (2) That the Task Force is directed and empowered to:
  - (a) Evaluate the cybersecurity standards and procedures currently in place by state agencies and identify vulnerabilities of systems, staffing, training and technologies within state agencies;
  - (b) Develop recommendations for state agencies to better protect their information technology systems against cybercrime and other malicious cyber-enabled actions;

- (c) Develop proposals for ongoing training of all state agencies and agency personnel to increase cyber security hygiene and awareness;
  - (d) Develop and evaluate state cyber incident response programs and protocols;
  - (e) Develop recommendations for improvements in governance and implementation of the state's Enterprise Security Program;
  - (f) Work with ITS to review state departments, agencies, institutions, boards, and commissions and their compliance with Mississippi cyber security laws;
  - (g) Work with state agencies to reconnect them with resources of the Office of the Attorney General and federal partners to assist in cyber investigations and prosecution;
  - (h) Such other tasks as the Governor may deem necessary;
- (3) That all executive branch departments, agencies, institutions, boards, and commissions and any other divisions of the Executive branch of state government, fully cooperate with the Task Force and provide staff support any other assistance as requested.
  - (4) That the officers and personnel of all departments, offices, and agencies are requested to cooperate with and extend such services and facilities to the Governor and the Task Force as may be requested.
  - (5) That the work and records of this Task Force should be given protection under Miss. Code Ann § 25-61-11.2.
  - (6) That at the conclusion of the Task Force's work planning and research, all state agencies boards and related officers shall cooperate to make reports regarding coordination of technology, equipment, and dedicated personnel for submission to the Governor pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 7-1-5(k).
  - (7) That the Task Force shall prepare and make its recommendations by October 31, 2020.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 4th day of March, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

  
TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR



BY THE GOVERNOR



MICHAEL WATSON  
SECRETARY OF STATE