

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.**

**2022-27**

**WHEREAS**, the State of South Carolina has significant interests in maintaining and enhancing the State’s cybersecurity ecosystem and cyber-related economic sector; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 19, 2017, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 2017-08, establishing the South Carolina Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (“SC CIC”) Executive Oversight Group to develop, execute, and implement a comprehensive program and operational effort to evaluate, enhance, and protect the State’s critical infrastructure and key resources and to protect the same from sophisticated cyber threats, incidents, or attacks so as to preserve the health, safety, and well-being of South Carolina’s citizens and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to protecting critical infrastructure and key resources from sophisticated cyber threats and criminal activities, it is imperative that the State simultaneously explore broader opportunities to develop and strengthen the statewide cybersecurity ecosystem by facilitating further expansion of existing cyber-related industries, establishing a set of aligned actions to prioritize additional workforce development in this critical sector, and identifying, encouraging, and incentivizing new cyber-related investment in South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the aforementioned considerations and opportunities, the undersigned identified a need for additional collaboration among key stakeholders and the development and implementation of a statewide effort to coordinate the various cyber-related interests, plans, and approaches so as to improve shared situational awareness, increase resource efficiency, and promote unity of effort; and

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned recently engaged with the South Carolina Department of Commerce (“Department of Commerce”) and the University of South Carolina to commission a preliminary assessment of South Carolina’s cybersecurity ecosystem, titled the *South Carolina Cybersecurity Ecosystem Study*; and

**WHEREAS**, the *South Carolina Cybersecurity Ecosystem Study* determined that median wages for cybersecurity workers in South Carolina range between 34% and 240% higher than the median wage in the State, that the average unemployment rate for individuals employed in the cyber-related sector in South Carolina is one-third lower than the state average, and that South Carolina's economic activity and anticipated growth will necessitate nearly 6,000 new cybersecurity workers over the next ten years; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the foregoing, the undersigned has determined that is necessary and appropriate to take additional proactive action to formalize the ongoing efforts to enhance the State's cybersecurity ecosystem, and the measures set forth herein are intended to facilitate the development and implementation of this collaborative statewide initiative and to provide for coordination of the same by the Department of Commerce.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby order and direct as follows:

**Section 1. Formalizing South Carolina Cybersecurity Ecosystem Coordination Initiative**

A. In furtherance of the State of South Carolina's significant interests in developing, advancing, and implementing a statewide initiative to strengthen South Carolina's cybersecurity ecosystem by increasing collaboration, cooperation, and communication among key stakeholders and prioritizing cyber-related workforce and economic development, I hereby authorize and direct the Department of Commerce to undertake the following actions and initiatives:

1. Coordinate and direct implementation of a strategic statewide initiative and collaborative effort involving critical stakeholders across the State's cyber ecosystem—including private industry, nonprofits, academia, and federal, state, and local government entities—designed to advance the principles, considerations, and goals detailed herein, to include assessing and expanding South Carolina's cyber-related workforce and economic development activities and enhancing the competitive standing of South Carolina's cybersecurity ecosystem and cyber-related sector relative to other States.
2. Collaborate with public and private partners and stakeholders to develop a strategic plan to promote awareness and understanding of this initiative, solicit support and resource provision, and facilitate unity and efficiency of effort.
3. Coordinate with the SC CIC Executive Oversight Group and other agencies, departments, or entities, as necessary and appropriate, to explore potential opportunities for developing a cyber-related public awareness and resource program to assist non-critical infrastructure organizations, entities, and individuals.
4. Evaluate, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Revenue and any other relevant and applicable state or local agencies, departments, or

entities, as necessary and appropriate, the effectiveness of existing economic development mechanisms, assess the potential application of the same to this initiative and future cyber-related investments in this State, and consider whether additional economic development mechanisms or incentives may further advance South Carolina's interests related to the cybersecurity ecosystem.

5. Collaborate with state and local education and workforce-development agencies, departments, or entities, as necessary and appropriate, regarding the potential development and implementation of cyber-related pilot programs.
6. Establish and monitor measures of performance and effectiveness of the foregoing activities and initiatives.

B. Pursuant to article IV, section 17 of the South Carolina Constitution and sections 1-1-840 and 1-3-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and in furtherance of the principles, considerations, and initiatives set forth above, I hereby authorize and direct any state agencies, departments, entities, or officials called upon for assistance by the Department of Commerce to cooperate with, accommodate, and assist the Department of Commerce in conducting or performing the activities required by this Section or otherwise undertaken to advance the initiative formalized herein and to provide the Department of Commerce with any and all data, information, documents, or materials requested by the Department of Commerce in connection with the same.

## **Section 2. General Provisions**

A. This Order is not intended to create, and does not create, any individual right, privilege, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of South Carolina, its agencies, departments, political subdivisions, or other entities, or any officers, employees, or agents thereof, or any other person.

B. If any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not affect the constitutionality or validity of the remaining portions of this Order, as the undersigned would have issued this Order, and each and every section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, and word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases, or words hereof may be declared to be unconstitutional, invalid, or otherwise ineffective.

C. This Order shall be implemented consistent with and to the maximum extent provided by applicable law and shall be subject to the availability of appropriations. This Order shall not be interpreted, applied, implemented, or construed in a manner so as to impair, impede, or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to an executive agency or department, or the officials or head thereof, including the undersigned.

D. I hereby expressly authorize the Office of the Governor to provide or issue any necessary and appropriate additional or supplemental guidance, rules, regulations, or restrictions

regarding the application of this Order or to otherwise to provide clarification regarding the same, through appropriate means, without the need for further Orders.

E. This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect unless otherwise expressly stated herein or modified, amended, extended, or rescinded by subsequent Order.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE  
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 9th DAY OF  
SEPTEMBER, 2022.**

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**HENRY MCMASTER**  
Governor

ATTEST:

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MARK HAMMOND  
Secretary of State