



Brian J. Tardiff
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Division of Information Technology
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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairwoman, House Committee on Innovation, Internet, & Technology

From: Brian J. Tardiff, Chief Information Security Officer

Subject: House Bill 7883, Entitled An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Identity Theft Protection Act of 2015 {LC4811/1} {Creates a cybersecurity incident response group and implement stricter notice requirements to the effected parties}

Date: 21 March 2022

Honorable Chairwoman,

This memorandum is submitted in support of House Bill 7883, Entitled An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Identity Theft Protection Act of 2015 {LC4811/1} {Creates a cybersecurity incident response group and implement stricter notice requirements to the effected parties}.

As the State of Rhode Island continues to mature our Statewide cybersecurity posture, it is critical that legislation supports and enhances these efforts. The establishment of a cybersecurity incident response group is an essential first step in ensuring that all State and local entities have a formalized method of reporting cybersecurity incidents and breaches to the appropriate offices within the State.

This active and timely reporting will result in shared threat intelligence, proactive mitigation of cybersecurity risk, and the protection of State and constituent sensitive data. Expedient notification to the cybersecurity incident response group will facilitate rapid response and protection activities for connected systems across the State; contributing to the reduction of the risk of proliferation of malware or cyber intrusion activities.

Additionally, the ability to drive cybersecurity maturity across the State is directly correlated to the quality of the State's threat intelligence and understanding of the cybersecurity challenges that our local partners face on a daily basis. The active and timely reporting of cybersecurity incidents will provide the organizations that comprise the cybersecurity incident

response group with the data needed to not only respond to the incident, but to advise, support, and assist local entities in their cybersecurity program development efforts.

The ever evolving nature of cybersecurity threats to our constituents and the services provided to them by the State and local entities requires active leadership and participation by all branches of State government. For this reason, and those identified above, I fully support House Bill 7883.

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