

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi recognizes that it plays a vital role in identifying, protecting its citizens from, and responding to cybersecurity threats that may have a significant impact on our individual and collective safety and privacy; and

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure (i.e., financial services, educational institutions, energy, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, health care, and emergency response systems, etc.) is increasingly reliant on the support of information systems and technology; and

WHEREAS, cybersecurity education and awareness are crucial for everyone, including large corporations, small businesses, financial institutions, schools, government agencies, non-profit organizations, the home user, and anyone who connects to the internet, be it with a computer, mobile phone, or other internet-connected devices; and

WHEREAS, monitoring your accounts, being conscientious of what you share online, keeping computer software up to date, creating unique passwords and changing them regularly, installing antivirus programs and firewalls, and using mobile devices and other internet-connect devices safely are ways people and organizations can protect themselves from phishing, viruses, ransomware, other types of malware, financial loss, and loss of sensitive data; and

WHEREAS, Mississippians should be encouraged and informed about the demand, opportunities, and career options available within the area of cybersecurity and highlight how building the nation's and Mississippi's cybersecurity workforce enhances the nation's security and promotes economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework is a free resource to help organizations (both large and small, public and private) improve their cybersecurity practices through a practical approach addressing the ever-evolving cybersecurity threats and challenges; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the security of cyberspace is a shared responsibility in which each of us has a critical role to play, and awareness of essential cyber hygiene will improve the security of Mississippi's information, infrastructure, and economy; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government of the United States of America, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (www.cisa.gov), the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (www.its.ms.gov), the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (<https://www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac>), the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (www.nascio.org), and the National Cyber Security Alliance (www.staysafeonline.org) recognize October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month; and that in recognition of this, the 20th year of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, all citizens are encouraged to reduce online risks by visiting these websites, learning about cybersecurity and using the resources so they can put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces, and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby designate October 2023 as

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

in Mississippi.



IN WITNESS 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 13th day of September, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR