

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

As Engrossed: S4/3/19

A Bill

SENATE BILL 632

5 By: Senators J. English, Irvin, J. Hendren
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
9 COMMISSION TO SUPPORT A CYBER ALLIANCE IN ORDER TO
10 REDUCE CYBER RISKS AND ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC
11 DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
15 DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO SUPPORT A CYBER
16 ALLIANCE IN ORDER TO REDUCE CYBER RISKS
17 AND ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 26, is amended to add an
24 additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 Subchapter 3 – Arkansas Cyber Initiative Act
26

27 25-26-301. Title.

28 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Cyber
29 Initiative Act".
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31 25-26-302. Legislative intent.

32 The General Assembly finds that:

33 (1) Malicious cyber activity continues to grow rapidly;

34 (2) Critical infrastructure and state networks are primary
35 targets for hackers, including transnational organized crime and national
36 state actors;



1 (3) Arkansas is home to national and global private sector
2 companies that are considerable targets in the financial services, food and
3 supply chain, and electric grid sectors;

4 (4) As the private sector owns and operates the vast majority of
5 the critical infrastructure in the United States, including Arkansas, it is
6 critical that a cyber-capability response involve private sector companies;

7 (5) The Arkansas Cyber Initiative will be part of the newly
8 formed American Cyber Alliance and will develop cyber capacity in Arkansas
9 with regard to innovation, workforce development, and intelligence and
10 operations; and

11 (6) The Arkansas Cyber Initiative will help mitigate cyber risks
12 in Arkansas, develop educational best practices, provide enhanced threat
13 assessment and response capabilities for public and private sectors in
14 Arkansas, and advance opportunities for economic development in Arkansas.

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16 25-26-303. Arkansas Cyber Initiative – Creation – Powers and duties.

17 Unless otherwise provided by law, the Arkansas Economic Development
18 Commission may work with universities, colleges, government agencies, and the
19 private business sector to establish a cyber alliance to be known as the
20 "Arkansas Cyber Initiative" that will support collaborations for the purpose
21 of improving cyber security and the economy of the state through:

22 (1) Improving cyber infrastructure;

23 (2) Increasing the focus on cyber job-creating research
24 activities; and

25 (3) Expanding cyber job-creating research activities toward
26 producing more knowledge-based and high-technology cyber jobs in this state.

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28 25-26-304. Areas of collaboration.

29 The Arkansas Cyber Initiative may:

30 (1) Identify specific areas where scientific research and
31 innovation may contribute to the creation and growth of knowledge-based and
32 high-technology cyber jobs in Arkansas;

33 (2) Determine specific areas in which financial investment and
34 engagement from government agencies or private businesses located in Arkansas
35 could be enhanced or increased if resources were made available to assist in
36 developing a robust cyber security infrastructure;

1 (3) Advise universities of the cyber-related talent needs of
2 Arkansas businesses;

3 (4) Improve the exchange of innovation and workforce
4 collaboration for the mutual benefit of universities, government agencies,
5 and private businesses;

6 (5) Encourage collaborations between private businesses or
7 private business sector representatives and universities in the areas of
8 research identified by the alliance;

9 (6) Recommend government investments in cyber infrastructure for
10 the reduction of cyber risks and enhancement of economic development
11 opportunities;

12 (7) Hold an annual cyber summit to engage corporate leadership
13 and academia;

14 (8) Facilitate economic development activities relating to cyber
15 security;

16 (9) Pursue funding from public and private sources to facilitate
17 the work of the initiative;

18 (10) Facilitate outreach to rural communities and
19 municipalities; and

20 (11) Provide operational cyber support for government agencies
21 and private business located in Arkansas by:

22 (A) Implementing enhanced cyber threat assessment and
23 mitigation capability at unclassified and classified levels;

24 (B) Assessing the cyber networks and infrastructure of
25 this state;

26 (C) Providing best practices and professional development
27 training for people employed in cyber security;

28 (D) Assisting with responses to critical cyber incidents
29 in this state;

30 (E) Developing uncleared and cleared apprenticeship
31 programs related to cyber security; and

32 (F) Fostering collaboration with the Arkansas
33 Cybersecurity Office for the ongoing improvement of cybersecurity efforts
34 across government entities.

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36 25-26-305. Contracts on behalf of the Arkansas Cyber Initiative.

