

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. It requires each of us, including large corporations, small businesses, financial institutions, schools, government agencies, tribes, non-profit organizations, home users, and anyone who connects to the internet, be it with a computer, mobile phone, or other Internet-connected device to remain secure from cyber threats; and

WHEREAS, monitoring your accounts, being conscientious of what you share online, keeping computer software up to date, creating strong passwords and using a password manager or key, installing antivirus programs and firewalls, and enabling multi-factor authentication for online accounts, are actions people and organizations can take to protect themselves from phishing, viruses, ransomware, other types of malware, financial loss, and loss of sensitive data, when using mobile phones and other connected devices; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi encourages efforts to engage and inform the public about the demand, opportunities, and career options available within the area of cybersecurity, and highlights how building the nation's and Mississippi's cybersecurity workforce can enhance our state and national security and promote economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework is a free resource to help organizations (both large and small, public and private) improve their cybersecurity practices through a practical approach to address and reduce 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 (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*.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby designate October 2024 as

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

in Mississippi and encourage Mississippians to observe CyberSecurity Awareness Month, to take steps to remain secure from cyber threats, to visit these websites to learn how to reduce online risk, and to put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces, and businesses.



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 6th day of September, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR