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2024 Legislature

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An act relating to cybersecurity; amending s. 1004.444, F.S.; providing that the Florida Center for Cybersecurity may also be referred to as "Cyber Florida"; providing that the center is established under the direction of the president of the University of South Florida, or his or her designee; revising the mission and goals of the center; authorizing the center to take certain actions relating to certain initiatives; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1004.444, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.444 Florida Center for Cybersecurity.—

(1) The Florida Center for Cybersecurity, which may also be referred to as "Cyber Florida," is established within the University of South Florida, under the direction of the president of the university or the president's designee.

(2) The mission and goals of the center are to:

(a) Position Florida as the national leader in cybersecurity and its related workforce primarily through advancing and funding education and ~~7~~ research and development initiatives in cybersecurity and related fields, with a

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26 secondary emphasis on, ~~and~~ community engagement and
 27 cybersecurity awareness.

28 (b) Assist in the creation of jobs in the state's
 29 cybersecurity industry and enhance the existing cybersecurity
 30 workforce through education, research, applied science, and
 31 engagements and partnerships with the private and military
 32 sectors.

33 (c) Act as a cooperative facilitator for state business
 34 and higher education communities to share cybersecurity
 35 knowledge, resources, and training.

36 (d) Seek out research and development agreements and other
 37 partnerships with major military installations and affiliated
 38 contractors to assist, when possible, in homeland cybersecurity
 39 defense initiatives.

40 (e) Attract cybersecurity companies and jobs to this ~~the~~
 41 state, with an emphasis on the defense, finance, health care,
 42 transportation, and utility sectors.

43 (f) Conduct, fund, and facilitate research and applied
 44 science that leads to the creation of new technologies and
 45 software packages that have military and civilian applications
 46 and that can be transferred for military and homeland defense
 47 purposes or for sale or use in the private sector.

48 (3) Upon receiving a request for assistance from the
 49 Department of Management Services, the Florida Digital Service,
 50 or another state agency, the center is authorized, but may not

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51 be compelled by the agency, to conduct, consult on, or otherwise
 52 assist any state-funded initiatives related to:

53 (a) Cybersecurity training, professional development, and
 54 education for state and local government employees, including
 55 school districts and the judicial branch; and

56 (b) Increasing the cybersecurity effectiveness of the
 57 state's and local governments' technology platforms and
 58 infrastructure, including school districts and the judicial
 59 branch.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.