

CHAPTER 2024-99

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1555

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, research and development initiatives in cybersecurity and related fields, with a secondary emphasis on, ~~and~~ community engagement and cybersecurity awareness.

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

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

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

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

(f) Conduct, fund, and facilitate research and applied science that leads to the creation of new technologies and software packages that have military

and civilian applications and that can be transferred for military and homeland defense purposes or for sale or use in the private sector.

(3) Upon receiving a request for assistance from the Department of Management Services, the Florida Digital Service, or another state agency, the center is authorized, but may not be compelled by the agency, to conduct, consult on, or otherwise assist any state-funded initiatives related to:

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor April 15, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 15, 2024.