



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

NCSL Executive Task Force on Cybersecurity August-September 2019

Task Force Highlights



Thanks to all who came to Nashville to participate in our task force meeting! We had excellent presentations on a series of topics including a session on the issues surrounding law enforcement and digital privacy, an introduction to the world of artificial intelligence, a briefing from the Deputy Director of the Department of Homeland Security's new cyber agency – the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a visit from the Nashville Cyber Range and Tennessee's CIO.

We capped off our day with an outstanding presentation from IBM's lead security advisors. All-in-all it was an information-packed day!

Our agenda and resources from our Summit meeting are [here](#). Thank you to all the task force members who contributed session ideas. Now we are turning our attention to our next meeting which will be held in **Phoenix, AZ on Monday, December 9**. Mark your calendars now!

Federal Activity

CISA Director Chris Krebs released the agency's [Strategic Intent](#) document on August 22. The document lays out the strategic vision and operational priorities of the CISA director. As the nation's risk advisor, CISA seeks to engage stakeholders such as NCSL to work together to defend against today's threats and build resiliency nationwide. The document also lays out CISA's guiding principles: Leadership and collaboration; Risk prioritization; Results orientation; Respect for national values; and Creating a unified mission and agency.

Just prior to the release of CISA's Strategic Intent document, it released its [white paper](#) on ransomware in response to numerous ransomware incidents across the country. The white paper seeks to provide basic tips and resources for public and private sector entities to help them prevent ransomware attacks and recovery strategies if they are the victims of a ransomware attack.

CISA will also be hosting a Cybersecurity Summit in Washington, DC September 18-20. NCSL staff will attend and report back to the task force.

In early September, the Pew Research Center published its [white paper](#) on facial recognition. The research document reported findings that most Americans have heard about facial recognition technology, but don't know much about it and that a majority of Americans surveyed trust its use by law enforcement but are not as trusting of its use by advertisers and tech companies.

While the outlook for the passage of federal cybersecurity legislation remains dicey, NCSL will continue to push for resources to states for cybersecurity enhancement. NCSL, NGA, NASCIO and the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) recently sent a [joint letter](#) to the Senate urging passage of the State Cyber Resiliency Act, S. 1065. As October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, there is opportunity to move cyber legislation forward in Congress.

State Activity

At least 43 states and Puerto Rico [introduced or considered](#) close to 300 bills or resolutions that deal significantly with cybersecurity in 2019. Some of the key cybersecurity issues considered in legislatures included:

- Appropriating funds for improved security in government
- Addressing cybersecurity threats to elections (see NCSL's [State Elections Legislation Database](#) for other types of elections security and elections-related legislation)
- Requiring government agencies to implement training and security policies and practices
- Creating cybersecurity task forces, commissions or studies
- Targeting cyber threats such as ransomware or other computer crimes
- Addressing cybersecurity within the insurance industry or cybersecurity insurance for government
- Providing for the confidentiality of government cybersecurity information and plans by exempting it from public records laws
- Encouraging cybersecurity training, education and workforce development.
- Studying the use of blockchain for cybersecurity
- Requiring the private sector to improve security practices
- Addressing the security of connected devices (or the Internet of Things (IoT)).

Significant cybersecurity-related bills were enacted or adopted in at least 31 states this year. Some of the key enactments include New York's Stop Hacks and Improve Electronic Data Security ([SHIELD Act](#)), which amended the state's data breach notification law, but also imposes more expansive data security requirements on companies.

At least four states—Alabama, Delaware, Mississippi and New Hampshire—passed legislation based on the NAIC Insurance Data Security Model Law, which establishes a comprehensive security framework for insurers to implement.

[Oregon enacted a law](#) similar to California's law requiring manufacturers of "connected devices" to equip such devices with "reasonable security features." Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin spoke about the California law, which she sponsored at the Task Force's meeting in New Orleans in January.

What We Are Reading

Georgia Department of Public Safety Hit with Ransomware Attack

While we were attending NCSL's Legislative Summit, the Georgia Department of Public Safety was hit with ransomware. All servers were taken offline. Read more [here](#).

And speaking of ransomware, here's an article from Texas- [23 Texas Towns Hit by Coordinated Ransomware Attack](#).

Cybersecurity Tips from a Master of Deception Turned Consultant

Frank Abagnale, the former confidence man, check forger, and impostor, after doing time, wrote "Catch Me If You Can" about his exploits. He also became a security consultant to the U.S. government. He writes here about the cybersecurity battle today, saying "You know, in the old days, the con man, the con woman, had a little bit of compassion. Today, no emotion enters into it because con artists never see their victims—it's data on the internet. I was 16 when I started as a con man, I had no fear." Read [more](#).

NCSL cybersecurity staff: [Susan Parnas Frederick](#), [Pam Greenberg](#), [Abbie Gruwell](#) and [Heather Morton](#).



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Denver: 303-364-7700

Washington, D.C.: 202-624-5400