

NGA Cybersecurity Newsletter

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Contact: David Forscey (dforscey@nga.org)

202-624-5356

Welcome to the second addition of the NGA Cybersecurity Newsletter! This is not just another cybersecurity newsletter; our goal is to provide you a monthly update on *state* cybersecurity. We will be detailing our own activities in the Resource Center for State Cybersecurity (RCSC) and keeping you abreast of the latest developments in state law and policy. Please send tips about worthy news items or other possible content to David Forscey at dforscey@nga.org.

Accomplishments

Policy Academy Accomplishments

From 2016 to 2017, the RCSC held its first *Policy Academy on Enhancing State Cybersecurity*, selecting five states—Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, and Oregon—to engage in a year-long technical assistance project. We are happy to report that every state achieved its objectives.

- In July, **Connecticut** Gov. Dannel Malloy [unveiled](#) the state's first statewide Cybersecurity Strategy.
- **Illinois** released its own [statewide strategy](#), which Gov. Bruce Rauner describes as “a solid foundation for the ongoing development and improvement of our cybersecurity capabilities and effectuates that protection.”
- **Oregon** Gov. Kate Brown [signed legislation](#)—crafted through NGA's Policy Academy—to consolidate cybersecurity management across all state agencies. The law also began the process of establishing the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence by formalizing a [Cybersecurity Advisory Council](#).
- The **Nevada** Policy Academy team succeeded in passing legislation as well, creating the [Office of Cyber Defense Coordination](#).
- **Louisiana** formalized a new Emergency Support Function focused on cybersecurity (nonpublic), and Gov. John Bel Edwards also [established a cybersecurity commission](#) in December 2017.

News You May Have Missed

Commissions, Task Forces, Councils . . . oh my!

The Policy Academy was only one piece of NGA's cybersecurity policy work. Gov. Terry McAuliffe's Chair's Initiative, [Meet the Threat: States Confront the Cyber Challenge](#), has drawn more attention to state cybersecurity, and governors are acting. Here is a sampling:

- Dozens of governors signed NGA's [cybersecurity compact](#).
- Gov. Eric Holcomb of **Indiana** signed an executive order establishing the [Indiana Executive Council on Cybersecurity](#).
- **Montana** Gov. Steve Bullock issued his own [executive order](#) creating the Montana Information Security Advisory Council.
- **Arizona** Gov. Doug Ducey established a dedicated [cybersecurity team](#)...
- ...[As did](#) **Vermont** Gov. Phil Scott.
- **South Carolina** Gov. Henry McMaster [announced the formation](#) of a new center dedicated to advancing cybersecurity education and workforce development.
- **Georgia's** \$60 million Cyber Innovation & Training Center is [on pace](#) to open in July 2018.

Like Legislation?

Michigan enacted the Cyber Civilian Corps Act, under which volunteers may provide cyber response services to public and private organizations.

New York Assembly Bill 8674 (introduced September 2017) would provide a tax credit for employers who pay for employees to receive associates degree in cybersecurity.

The latest federal omnibus appropriations bill included \$380 million in aid to states to assist election officials administer elections and enhance cybersecurity.

A [new law](#) permits the U.S. Department of Defense to use Cyber Guard to "carry out exercises relating to the cybersecurity of election systems of States," provided that each "state" agree, in writing, to participate and agrees to vulnerability testing of election systems. The law does not clarify which state leaders must enter into the written agreement.

Congress also made [significant changes](#) to the federal Cyber Scholarship-for-Service (SFS) program:

- SFS now must prioritize the placement of at least 80% of scholarship recipients with federal agencies.
- SFS now shall provide awards to improve cybersecurity education in K-12 schools.

- Students may agree to work not only for a federal state, local, or tribal agency, but also in Congress, an interstate agency, or an SLTT-affiliated nonprofit that is critical infrastructure.
- Students are now eligible for SFS if they are enrolled half-time at a community college.

And the latest federal omnibus appropriations package contains \$380 million for state officials to spend on election administration and election security initiatives.

NGA Center Update

NGA staff published a [paper](#) in the Nebraska Law Review describing their views on state cybersecurity governance.

The Resource Center also released three papers on [coordinated vulnerability disclosure](#), the [Michigan Civilian Cyber Corps \(MiC3\)](#), and [cybercrime enforcement](#).

We are keeping a close eye on developments in the election security space. Our experts offered input and helped to shape best practices published by the Center for Internet Security and the [Defending Digital Democracy Project \(D3P\)](#), run out of Harvard's Belfer Center.

NGA staff also spoke on state cybersecurity at the American Bankers Association Winter Conference, the 21st Annual Transmission Summit East, the National Association of Secretaries of State Winter Conference, and more.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines:

- Release of RFA inviting states to apply for *Policy Academy on Implementing State Cybersecurity Policy* – April 2018
- Quarterly Roundtables for NGA Cyber Partners – First to be held in DC in April/May 2018
- Executive Women's Forum / NGA Cybersecurity Symposium – Panel presentations and reception at the Hall of States to highlight women leaders in cybersecurity and technology – May 8, 2018
- Monthly Conference Calls for NGA Cyber Partners – Date/Time TBD
- NGA Cybersecurity Podcasts – first series to be released in June/July 2018
- Third NGA National Summit on State Cybersecurity – May/June 2019

Other Major NGA Events in 2018

Below are the dates for major NGA events in 2018.

Friday, May 4 – Sunday, May 6
2018 North American Summit
Scottsdale, AZ

Contact: Tiffany Shackelford (tshackelford@nga.org; 202-719-2870)

Wednesday, July 18 – Sunday, July 22

2018 NGA Summer Meeting

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Contact: Bob Masciarelli (bmasciarelli@nga.org; 202-624-5355)

Friday, November 16 – Sunday, November 18

2018 Seminar for New Governors

Colorado Springs, CO

Contact: Nikki Guilford (nguiford@nga.org; 202-624-5422)
