

Old Dominion University

National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2019

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CYSE 406 Cyber Law

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 1, 2022

TO: Representative Canduit

FROM: Clarence V. Kimbrell Jr.

SUBJECT: Cybersecurity Training.

On the day of November 26, 2019, in the 116th Congress 1st session an act was enforced that will change our society for the better. This act is referred to by two names those are National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2019 or S.333 for short. The Act states “to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and other purposes.” As for many acts or executive orders, many terms need to be defined before proceeding with the main purpose of the document. This will ensure there will be no interpretation for abuse of the act or order. Two terms hold much more weight than the others and those being consortium and cybersecurity risk. This was defined as a consortium, a group of nonprofit entities that update, develop, and deliver training for cybersecurity to benefit homeland security. Then cybersecurity risk and incident are given the same definitions found in section 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 or referred to as (6 U.S.C. 659(a)). This act was enacted into United States law five days earlier by the Senate on November 21, 2019. This newly enacted law can be broken into five parts just as it is separated in the document. They are categorized into alphabetical order A through E starting with “In General”, “Assistance to the NCCIC”, “Considerations Regarding Selection of a Consortium”, “Metrics”, and finally “Outreach”. For clarification NCCIC for those who do not know stands for National Cybersecurity and Communications Integrations Center. The “In General” can be summarized as the Secretary of Homeland Security working with a consortium to support endeavors to handle cybersecurity risks and incidents. Secondly, the Secretary will use the efforts to help national cybersecurity and the communications integration center of the Department of Homeland Security. Third is how the Secretary of Homeland Security will select a consortium. The fourth section is to measure the strength of activities projected by the consortium. Then finally the last section, Outreach is summarized to focus on the opportunities for minority groups to support endeavors to handle cybersecurity risks and incidents. When all of these sections are combined, they form the foundation of this act as a whole. This act was passed to address the cyber hygiene of the United States Government.

Cyber hygiene can be defined as activities that support the health of your online presence, which can be applied to one person or organization. The lack of cyber hygiene at the highest level was the main target of the passing of the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2019. Then there is to address incidents that already occurred. Studying the previous incidents in

cybersecurity will allow the consortium and Secretary of Homeland Security to push for solutions that will benefit everyone in the future. The information gathered from the consortium by the Secretary of Homeland Security is to be provided to first responders and critical, infrastructure owners and operators. One of the main reasons for the creation of this act is that a total of eighty-five percent of critical infrastructure in the United States is privately owned. Therefore, educating these entities with cybersecurity training will allow a safer work environment and a safer society from cyber threats. Without this act being passed it would allow private entities to carry on unsafe cyber practices that could potentially harm the community surrounding said critical infrastructure. There is some history of this act to know about such as there were previous versions of it that failed to get past in the Senate in 2017 and earlier in 2019. Then a few years later a similar one that revised the act passed in the latter half of 2019 was written in 2021. The problem this act was trying to eliminate has drastically been reduced at a national level therefore, can be seen as revising the issue. The law was rewritten in 2021 to further protect society by incorporating more cybersecurity training for everyone. In the future years, we will see additions to this law to help improve society as a whole. The allocation of more resources to benefit the safety of the government and its citizens will be one of the biggest steps in improving the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2019. The provisions stating minority groups to provide them cybersecurity training and jobs will be emphasized to gain support for Representative Canduit from all parts of the country.

Sources:

Adams, Julie E. "Text - S.333 - 116th Congress (2019-2020): National ..." *Congress.gov*, United States Government, 26 Nov. 2019, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/333/text>.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.

"NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM ACT OF 2019." *Senate Report 116-5 - National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2019*, 12 Mar. 2019, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CRPT-116srpt5/html/CRPT-116srpt5.htm>.