The Law Itself

This was introduced as a bill in 2019 but was not viewed by either the House or Senate until 2020. It was finally passed as a law in December of 2020.

Summary of the Law as a Whole

NIST is the primary developer of all guidelines and standards. These standards and guidelines are a means to inform the federal government on how to use and manage IoT devices that belong to agencies and are connected to information systems.

OMB is the body behind the review of agency information security policies and principles and comparing those to the baseline set by NIST and making sure that all policies are compliant with NIST guidelines. OMB also oversees the federal agencies to make sure they are following the guidelines set by NIST if there are any changes made. NIST is required to review and revise the standards and guidelines as needed every five years. OMB will update any policy or principle to remain consistent with NIST revisions.

General Problem that the Law is Trying to Fix/Amend

The law itself is trying to create a baseline for government agencies to follow when it comes to IoT devices. It was mainly designed to show government agencies how to appropriately use and manage these devices overall. NIST is the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The NIST cybersecurity framework aids businesses of all sizes better understand, manage, and reduce their risk of cyber-attacks and protect their networks and data. This framework is voluntary, but it gives businesses an outline for best practices and shows where the focus should be for cybersecurity protection. OMB is a government agency that is involved in

the review and implementation of budgets within executive agencies, including the President. They oversee the budget information of any executive or federal sanctioned policies or laws.

The term internet of things, or IoT, refers to everyday objects and devices that have or can have a connection to the internet. It can be wired internet, wireless, Bluetooth, etc. These devices can be used to send information across the network and back almost instantly. Examples of these devices include smartphones, computers, laptops, televisions, gaming consoles, etc.

How does the Law Fix or Address the Problem? Any Improvements?

There is no way to fix this problem per se, but it is a good groundwork for the future and will help secure things regardless. NIST and OMB will develop a relatively sound baseline for federal agencies and contractors to adopt and follow. However, this should be expanded upon. Rather than being mainly for federal agencies, it should be implemented at the state and even local levels for state agencies as well as local agencies and businesses.

Any Additional Observations?

At this point in time, this law does not directly affect the general public. It mainly deals with the people that have been hired, employed, or those fulfilling a contract at these government agencies. However, it lays the groundwork for security measures for the future and can be easily adapted for the public. That being said, if it were to be implemented for the public, these individuals or those selected would have to go through certain training to comply with the standards set by NIST and OMB. People may be disgruntled about it, but it will prove to be useful in the long run when it comes to the security of IoT devices in everyday life.

Works Cited

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