

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA



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MARTY J. JACKLEY
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BRENT K. KEMPEMA
CHIEF DEPUTY

November 1, 2024

Joint Committee on Appropriations
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Progress Update 2024 SB187 – Cybersecurity Services Initiative for Counties and Municipalities

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to talk about this existing initiative that will have a lasting impact for our counties and municipalities, and ultimately our residents. Cybersecurity is one of those items that is not tangible, people do not see the value of having good cyber hygiene until an incident happens and it affects their information. This initiative will allow our cities and counties to improve and expand their cybersecurity infrastructure and technology.

Multiple preliminary planning meetings were held, out of those meeting a well-rounded Advisory Committee was established comprised of statewide industry people, county employees, and federal partners. Currently, the only state agencies able to participate in the Committee are the Attorney General's office and Secretary of State. With the Committee's approval the Attorney General's office and DSU moved forward to hire an Administrator.

Interviews were held and an offer has been made to fill the Administrator position to manage the project. The Administrator will be an DSU employee. The Administrator's focus will be to work directly with the municipalities, be a liaison between the cyber industry and the counties and municipalities, work with the Advisory Committee, and work directly with the Attorney General's office and DSU facility to ensure goals and reporting requirements are met. An announcement as to who has been selected for the Administrator position will be made shortly.

The next phase will be to determine who will manage the Agreements with the counties and municipalities. This is currently where we are at with the Initiative.

We are excited to get all the procedures in place so collaboration can begin with the counties and municipalities, they are excited as well to get started.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent K. Kempema".

Brent K. Kempema
Chief Deputy, SD Office of Attorney General