

Executive Order 2023-03D

Prohibition of Certain Applications, Platforms, and Websites on State-Owned and State-Leased Devices

WHEREAS, maintaining the cybersecurity of Ohio state government and its employees and contractors is necessary to its safe and effective operation; and

WHEREAS, as Governor, I have implemented initiatives to protect Ohio private companies, government entities, and citizens from cybersecurity vulnerabilities and threats; and

WHEREAS, under China's 2017 National Intelligence Law, businesses located in China are required to assist the Chinese government in intelligence work, including data sharing with the Chinese Communist Party ("CCP"); and

WHEREAS, social media applications and platforms operating in China engage in surreptitious data privacy and cybersecurity practices to include collecting personal information, behavioral use data, biometric data, and other data contained on the devices of its users; and

WHEREAS, these social media applications and platforms are known to directly or indirectly act as an intelligence gathering mechanism for the CCP by sharing sensitive personal and business information and data obtained from its users and their devices with the CCP; and

WHEREAS, these surreptitious data privacy and cybersecurity practices pose national and local security and cybersecurity threats to users of these applications and platforms and the devices storing the applications and platforms; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio will not permit its state-owned or state-leased devices to act as a source to provide information to the CCP.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order and direct that:

1. All State agencies, boards, and commissions shall prohibit the following on any state-owned or state-leased device capable of accessing the internet: (i) the download and/or use of any social media application, channel, and platform that is owned by an entity located in China and (ii) accessing the website of any social media application, channel, and platform that is owned by an entity located in China.

- 2. All State agencies, boards, and commissions are prohibited from using social media applications, channels, and platforms that are owned by an entity located in China.
 - Such applications and platforms include but are not limited to TikTok, Tencent QQ, Tencent Video, QQ International (QQi), Qzone, WeChat, Weibo, Xiao HongShu, Zhihu, Meituan, Toutiao, Alipay, Xiami Music, Tiantian Music, DingTalk/Ding Ding, Douban, RenRen, Youku/Tudou, Little Red Book, and Zhihu.
- 3. The Department of Administrative Services, through Ohio's Office of Information Technology, shall review relevant statewide policies and, where necessary, update them to comply with this Executive Order.

I signed this Executive Order on January 8, 2023, in Cedarville, Ohio, and it will expire ten (10) calendar days after my last day as Governor of Ohio unless rescinded before then.

Mike DeWine, Governor

ATTEST:	
Frank LaRose, Secretary of State	

