

OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON CONTINUING OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE STATE IT SECURITY – 2021 **DEC. 13, 2021**

This management response to the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) performance audit report received November 29, 2021, is coordinated by the State’s Chief Information Officer on behalf of the audited entities.

SAO PERFORMANCE AUDIT OBJECTIVES:

The SAO sought to answer this question:

1. Can selected agencies make their IT systems more secure, and better align their IT security practices with leading practices?
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SAO Recommendations to the selected state agencies: to protect agency systems and the information within those systems, we recommend the six audited agencies:

1. Continue remediating vulnerabilities identified during the security testing, starting with those that most significantly affect them.
2. Continue to identify and periodically assess the agency’s IT security needs and resources, including personnel and technology, to mature and maintain sufficient security.
3. In addition, we recommend the five agencies whose IT security practices we reviewed further align their IT security programs with leading practices recommended in the CIS controls.

STATE RESPONSE:

We agree with the opportunities for improvement identified by the SAO to help protect agency systems and data. We also recognize our responsibility to continue improving state government security and take that duty seriously. Audited agencies have already implemented improvements and will continue to remediate any remaining vulnerabilities. The agencies will also continue to assess and make improvements to IT security needs – including further alignment with leading practices recommended in the CIS controls where appropriate. These controls are more prescriptive than the OCIO IT security standards 141.10 that agencies are required to follow.

The OCIO will use the SAO’s findings and observations of this and previous audits to work with all state organizations to better improve the state’s security posture.

Action Steps and Time Frame

- Each audited entity will work with their appropriate governing bodies to address and prioritize vulnerabilities, improvements and considerations suggested by the SAO during calendar year 2022.