



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 6, 2023

TO: All Commissioners
All Executive Staff

FROM: Mike Dunleavy
Governor

SUBJECT: Prohibiting The Use of TikTok On State Electronic Devices

TikTok is a popular social media platform owned and operated by ByteDance, a company headquartered in China, where national security laws allow the Chinese government to compel companies headquartered in China to provide it with data. ByteDance currently collects TikTok user data, including non-public personal information and, potentially, user location information, and has acknowledged that its China-based employees have access to user data. The collection of personal data and the intellectual property along with other proprietary information of users, governments, and companies within the United States, including in the State of Alaska (State) is of concern to me and my fellow Alaskans.

Simply put, TikTok poses a clear risk to any network or user it touches. National security experts continue to highlight TikTok as a national security concern, including the possibility that the Chinese government may use TikTok to control data collection, influence TikTok's recommendation algorithm, and compromise personal devices. Use of TikTok on state-owned electronic devices or on private devices that are connected to state networks poses a risk that a foreign government may access confidential or private data from State agencies and employees.

Therefore, effective immediately, all State Executive Branch agencies, including all departments, corporations, authorities, divisions, offices, bureaus, or other entities may not use TikTok on any State-owned electronic device, download or use the TikTok application or visit any TikTok website on the State network. Additionally, if TikTok is currently downloaded on any State device, it must be immediately removed, and appropriate steps shall be taken to secure the device. An exception to this directive may only be granted for persons whose job duties include conducting administrative, civil, or criminal law enforcement or other investigations, and requires approval by the Chief of Staff.

Alaska must remain vigilant to evolving threats both domestically and abroad and work together to defend ourselves against these threats, in order to defend our way of life and right to privacy.