



Covered Applications and Prohibited Technology Policy

Purpose

On December 7, 2022, Governor Greg Abbott required all state agencies to ban the video-sharing application TikTok from all state-owned and state-issued devices and networks over the Chinese Communist Party's ability to use the application for surveilling Texans. Governor Abbott also directed the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) to develop a plan providing state agencies guidance on managing personal devices used to conduct state business. Following the issuance of the Governor's directive, the 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1893, which prohibits the use of covered applications on governmental entity devices.

Scope

Pursuant to Senate Bill 1893, governmental entities, including local governments, must adopt a covered applications policy.

Definition

A covered application is defined as the social media service TikTok or any successor application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Limited, or any entity owned by ByteDance Limited, or a social media application or service specified by proclamation of the governor under Government Code Section 620.005.

Policy

Except where approved exceptions apply, the use or installation of covered applications is prohibited on all government-owned or -leased devices, including cell phones, tablets, desktop and laptop computers, and other internet-capable devices.

The City of Rollingwood will identify, track, and manage all government-owned or -leased devices including mobile phones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers, or any other internet-capable devices to:

- a. Prohibit the installation of a covered application.
- b. Prohibit the use of a covered application.
- c. Remove a covered application from a government-owned or -leased device that was on the device prior to the passage of S.B. 1893 (88th Leg, R.S.).
- d. Remove an application from a government-owned or -leased device if the Governor issues a proclamation identifying it as a covered application.

Ongoing and Emerging Technology Threats

Approved October 2024

To provide protection against ongoing and emerging technological threats to the government's sensitive information and critical infrastructure, DPS and DIR will regularly monitor and evaluate additional social media applications or services that pose a risk to this state.

DIR will annually submit to the Governor a list of social media applications and services identified as posing a risk to Texas. The Governor may proclaim items on this list as covered applications that are subject to this policy.

If the Governor identifies an item on the DIR-posted list described by this section, then the City of Rollingwood will remove and prohibit the covered application.

The City of Rollingwood may also prohibit social media applications or services in addition to those specified by proclamation of the Governor.

Policy Compliance

This policy applies to all City of Rollingwood full- and part-time employees, contractors, paid or unpaid interns, and other users of government networks. All City of Rollingwood employees are responsible for complying with this policy. The city of Rollingwood will verify compliance with this policy through various methods including but not limited to, IT/security system reports and feedback to leadership. An employee found to have violated this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect changes in state law, additions to applications identified under Government Code Section 620.006, updates to the prohibited technology list posted to DIR's website, or to suit the needs of the City of Rollingwood.