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**Act No. 71 (H. 291). An act relating to the creation of the Cybersecurity Advisory Council**

**Subjects: Executive; information technology; Agency of Digital Services; cybersecurity; critical infrastructure**

This act creates the Cybersecurity Advisory Council to advise on the State’s cybersecurity infrastructure, best practices, communications protocols, standards, training, and safeguards.

Sec. 1 of this act establishes the Council and relevant definitions in 20 V.S.A. chapter 208. The Council is composed of 11 members and the Chief Information Officer serves as Chair. Among other responsibilities, the Council is required to develop a strategic plan for protecting the State’s public sector and private sector information and systems from cybersecurity attacks, evaluate statewide cybersecurity readiness, and conduct an inventory and review of cybersecurity standards and protocols for critical sector infrastructures. The Council is authorized to enter into executive session for certain reasons that are in addition to the considerations listed in 1 V.S.A. § 313 and also has a public records act exemption regarding cybersecurity standards, protocols, and incident responses, if the disclosure would jeopardize public safety.

Sec. 2 of this act amends the definition of “critical infrastructure” in 11 V.S.A. § 1701.

Sec 3. of this act requires the Council to include in its annual report due on January 15, 2024 any recommendations on whether to amend the definition of “essential supply chain”.

Sec. 4 of this act sunsets the Council on June 30, 2028.

Effective Date: July 1, 2028