

**Supreme Court of Vermont  
Office of State Court Administrator**

**THERESE M. CORSONES**, State Court Administrator  
*therese.corsones@vermont.gov*  
**Mailing Address:**  
Office of Court Administrator  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-0701  
**Telephone:** (802) 828-3278  
**FAX:** (802) 828-3457



**GREGG MOUSLEY**, Chief, Finance & Administration  
*gregg.mousley@vermont.gov*  
**MARCIA SCHELS**, Chief Technology Innovation Officer  
*marcia.schels@vermont.gov*  
**Laurie Canty**, Chief, Trial Court Operations  
*laurie.canty@vermont.gov*  
**SCOTT GRIFFITH**, Chief, Planning and Court Services  
*scott.griffith@vermont.gov*

[www.vermontjudiciary.org](http://www.vermontjudiciary.org)

TO: Sen. Ruth Hardy, Chair, Senate Government Operations Committee

FROM: Teri Corsones

RE: H. 291

DATE: April 17, 2023

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on H. 291 regarding the creation of a Cybersecurity Advisory Council. The Judiciary fully supports H. 291. We note that there are presently no Judiciary representatives included in the Council membership, however. We respectfully request that a Judiciary representative be added to the Council's membership for the reasons below.

Vermont, along with every other state and federal agency, faces persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns that threaten the public sector, the private sector, and ultimately our citizens' security and privacy. We very much appreciate the Legislature's efforts through H. 291 to identify, deter, protect against, detect, and respond to these actions and actors.

H. 291 as drafted envisions that the Council will advise on the State's cybersecurity infrastructure, standards, and safeguards. It provides that the Council will be responsible for evaluating readiness and developing best practices and policies, for building relationships within state government and federal representatives, and for building partnerships with local universities and colleges. Although H. 291 presently includes member representatives of the Legislative and Executive branches, there are no Judicial branch member representatives.

The Judiciary has unique systems and operations. Proper collaboration of the three branches and their technology leaders along with private sector and other appointed members will be critical to protecting the infrastructure in the State of Vermont. We strongly recommend that government functions across the three branches of government be represented on the Council, to provide insight into Judicial responsibilities and system requirements.

The Judiciary respectfully requests that the Judiciary Chief Technology Innovation Officer or their designee be added to the Council membership. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and we hope that this memo is helpful to the discussion.

Cc. Sen. Tanya Vyhovsky, Vice Chair  
Sen. Alison Clarkson  
Sen. Rebecca White  
Sen. Robert Norris, Clerk  
Sen. Anne Watson  
Olivia Parker, Committee Assistant