Implications of App Restrictions on Government Devices

June 2, 2023

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Legislative District 09
Howard and Montgomery Counties

Chair, Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology and Biotechnology
Agenda

Overview
• Major points of debate
• Review of legislative action
• Maryland

Project Texas

Question & Answers

- How would you characterize TikTok’s efforts to secure US data compared to the rest of industry? AND How does the company plan to keep U.S. data private and protect that data from foreign influence, particularly the Chinese government?

- Is the federal government wrong in their concern about TikTok when members of Congress and U.S. intelligence officials, including the FBI, have all expressed serious national security concerns about the platform?

- What is TikTok doing about the addictive nature of the algorithms to protect children?
Concern #1: U.S. data privacy

- U.S. data includes personal info, browsing history, biometrics, email addresses, drivers' licenses and personal locations.
- ALSO includes data on all critical infrastructure- energy, agriculture, transportation, etc.
Concern #2: National Security Concerns

- TikTok is owned by Byte Dance
- 2017 Law: If government perceives security threat, user data must be turned over.
- At 150 million U.S. users, tremendous influence
Concern #3: Child Safety Concerns

- Parental concern
- Criticized for inappropriate content, cyberbullying, weak data security, and lackluster efforts to combat predatory behavior
- Algorithm is highly addictive
Arguments against banning TikTok

• TikTok is no different than other large social media apps in terms of “risk” of data being used or sold.

• Legal concerns (Montana lawsuit) principles of liberty and citizen choice as part of the vision of an 'Open Internet.'

• Data privacy and national security concern whack-a-mole.
2023 Legislation Status: Social Media Bans
Maryland becomes latest state to ban TikTok use in government

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Maryland is banning the use of TikTok and other China-based platforms in the state's executive branch of government, Gov. Larry Hogan said Tuesday, the latest state to address cybersecurity risks presented by the platforms.

HOUSE BILL 1141


Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023
Assigned to Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 10, 2023

CHAPTER ____

1. AN ACT concerning
2. State Information Technology - Social Media Applications - TikTok Prohibition
3. Prohibited Applications and Websites

4. FOR the purpose of prohibiting a certain social media application from being installed or
5. maintained certain applications from being used and certain websites from being
6. accessed by certain employees, agents, or entities on any information technology
7. owned or leased by a unit of State government; requiring the Department of Budget
8. and Management, in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology,
9. to prepare guidance for units of State government to remove from and prohibit the
10. use of a certain social media application and access to certain applications and
11. websites on information technology owned or leased by the unit; and generally
12. relating to social media applications, websites, and State information technology.
“In the end, House Bill 1141, as written, will have a dramatic impact on many facets of recruitment, marketing, research, education, and the daily lives of our students and other community members. It would also be extremely expensive and technically difficult to implement. The USM acknowledges the risk to security and privacy that ByteDance Ltd. And TenCent Holdings Ltd. pose to our communities and have plans in place to manage the risks in balance with the needs and resources of our communities.

The USM respectfully requests an exemption from the proposed prohibitions detailed in House Bill 1141. The USM seeks solely to retain the flexibility to block the use of applications and websites by ByteDance Ltd. and TenCent Holdings Ltd. on critical infrastructure while still allowing the use of these applications and websites in low-risk areas of our institutions.”
Questions & Answers

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