

House Bill 886

By: Representatives Evans of the 57th, Bazemore of the 69th, Miller of the 62nd, Schofield of the 63rd, and Cannon of the 58th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions regarding state government, so as to prohibit state agencies and local
3 government entities from responding to ransomware activity; to require that state agencies
4 and local government entities report ransomware activity to the Georgia Technology
5 Authority; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 1 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
10 provisions regarding state government, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
11 follows:

12 "50-1-14.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Local government entity' means any political subdivision of this state, including any
15 county, consolidated government, municipality, authority, school district, commission,

16 board, municipal corporation, governmental unit, sheriff's office, law enforcement
17 agency, or any other local public body.

18 (2) 'Ransomware activity' means restricting access to a computer system or its data,
19 typically by encrypting such data, with the demand for a ransom payment in exchange
20 for access restoration.

21 (3) 'State agency' means any department, agency, board, commission, institution, or other
22 entity of the executive, legislative, or judicial branches of the state, including public
23 universities, technical colleges, and other institutions under the state's authority.

24 (b) No state agency or local government entity in this state shall submit payment to or
25 otherwise communicate with an individual or organization engaging in ransomware activity
26 against such state agency or local government entity.

27 (c) Any state agency or local government entity experiencing ransomware activity
28 immediately shall consult with the Georgia Technology Authority. The Georgia
29 Technology Authority shall provide guidance and coordinate the response to such
30 ransomware activity. The affected state agency or local government entity shall be
31 required to provide the Georgia Technology Authority with any information required to
32 appropriately address such response."

33 **SECTION 2.**

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.