

1 **2023 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **IT Task Force**  
3 **Resolution #1**

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5 **Resolution Commending the State’s Support of Local Cybersecurity Efforts**  
6 **and Urging a Long-Term Commitment to Funding End Point Detection and**  
7 **Response Solutions**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the cybersecurity threats to our counties and local governments cannot be  
10 understated; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, these are not theoretical threats; breaches are happening right here in  
13 New York; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, in September of 2022, Suffolk County servers and information systems  
16 were compromised by cyber criminals demanding a ransom; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, the county countered the attack by shutting down nearly all of its  
19 operations systems for more than three months, while still maintaining continuity of  
20 services, albeit with some limitations and many challenges; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, rebuilding the county systems was time consuming and cost millions of  
23 dollars; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, hackers are trying to access your systems right now by, among other  
26 things, sending emails to county employees, looking for vulnerabilities in websites and  
27 looking for ways into servers and databases; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, bad actors are trying to disrupt local government services, destroy  
30 systems, exploit data, and hold systems hostage for payment; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, almost everything that local governments do today rely on some type of  
33 information technology system including but not limited to email, public health  
34 programs and services, social service case management, elections, highway and road  
35 maintenance, public safety, snow removal, mental health care, financial management,  
36 court and judicial operations, and many other functions; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, hardware, software and connection to the local government network is an  
39 integral part of just about every government operation and service; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, last year, the State of New York allocated \$62 million to create a joint  
42 security operation center (JSOC) and fund Endpoint Detection and Recovery solutions  
43 (EDR) for counties and the state’s five largest cities; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, the SFY 2024 Executive Budget proposal invests another \$42 million to  
46 support continued efforts to strengthen cyber defense efforts, expand the Cyber Analysis  
47 Unit at the State Police, and establish a specialized Industrial Control System

1 Assessment Team to enhance resiliency of critical infrastructure facilities across the  
2 State.

3  
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
5 Counties (NYSAC) commends the Governor, the Division of Homeland Security and  
6 Emergency Services (DHSES), the Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) and  
7 the Division of Budget (DOB) for providing funding in the SFY 2024 for expanding state  
8 and local cybersecurity efforts; and

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10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC supports the state’s expanded investment in  
11 state and local cybersecurity efforts; and

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13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the Governor and DOB to commit to  
14 providing support and services to an expanded number of counties and local  
15 governments to fund EDR and other solutions that can help better protect local  
16 information systems from cybersecurity threats; and

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18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the Governor and DOB to commit to  
19 providing multi-year cybersecurity funding so that it does not become an unfunded  
20 mandate for counties; and

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22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
23 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
26 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York Legislature and all others deemed necessary and  
27 proper.