WHEREAS, the State's information technology (IT) policy for governance of IT initiatives throughout state government, including security procedures and protocols, has been largely uncoordinated and outdated exposing the State to greater risks of internal and external cyber-attacks on IT infrastructure and records; and

WHEREAS, state government's fragmented approach to IT security makes South Carolina vulnerable to serious cyber and information breaches and requires immediate action to minimize cyber-attacks and protect personal information of our State's citizens; and

WHEREAS, Section 1-6-30 of the South Carolina Code of Laws authorizes the State Inspector General to "coordinate investigations" and "recommend policies and carry out other activities designed to deter, detect, and eradicate fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement . . . "; and

WHEREAS, Section 1-6-20(E) states, "Upon request of the State Inspector General for information or assistance, all agencies are directed to fully cooperate with and furnish the State Inspector General with all documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and other necessary data and documentary information to perform the mission of the State Inspector General[;]" and

WHEREAS, the State Inspector General is authorized to recommend policies to address holistic mismanagement of state government's information security policies and procedures and state agencies are required to fully cooperate with the State Inspector General to perform his mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby direct all cabinet agencies to immediately designate an information technology officer to cooperate with the State Inspector General who is authorized to make recommendations to improve information security policies and procedures in state agencies, on a comprehensive and holistic basis,
pursuant to his authority under Chapter 6 of Title 1 of the South Carolina Code of Laws with the following additional guidance:

1. Collaborate with the Division of State Information Technology of the Budget and Control Board to identify weaknesses in current statewide cyber-security systems, to include vulnerabilities to internal and external cyber-attacks, and develop a holistic strategy to improve information security;

2. Consult with national cyber-security sources including, but not limited to, the Multi-State Information and Sharing Analysis Center;

3. Determine state agencies' current information security staffing and their specific duties, and work with agencies to identify designated information security officers (ISOs) and their duties at each agency where appropriate; and

4. Improve and increase training of ISOs and all state government employees on information security measures to include cyber-security and records protection.

This Order shall take effect immediately.