



STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor
Joel Brennan, Secretary

November 13, 2020

State Senator Robert Cowles
Co-chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
118 South, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

State Representative Samantha Kerkman
Co-chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
315 North, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8952

Dear Co-Chairpersons Cowles and Kerkman:

The Department of Administration (“DOA”) herein submits to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee an update on the status of its efforts to implement recommendations related to information technology (“IT”) security concerns identified by the Legislative Audit Bureau (“LAB”) in Report 20-11, September 2020, IT Needs Assessment, Procurement, and Security (“Report”). Specific actions undertaken by DOA in response to each recommendation are outlined below.

IT Security Policy Handbook and Related Standards Updates

LAB recommended DOA regularly review and update the State of Wisconsin IT Security Policy Handbook and related standards in order to ensure that they reflect current National Institute of Standards and Technology (“NIST”) standards and meet state agency needs. DOA this week concluded its calendar year 2020 review of the IT Security Policy Handbook and current standards, a process which included engagement and feedback from state agencies on their needs.

NIST published an updated NIST 800-53 version 5, on September 23, 2020. DOA is assessing the impact of the NIST revisions to ensure that identified gaps, if any, between the standard issuance date and the next annual review cycle, October 2021, can timely be addressed. This assessment should be completed by March 31, 2021.

Work with Agencies to Address Security Concerns

LAB recommended DOA work with state agencies to address IT security concerns that they identified within the identify, protect, detect, respond and recover functions of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cyber Security. While those concerns and the plans to address them are too sensitive to report publicly, DOA can report that it has received from agencies detailed responses and anticipated completion dates related to each of the concerns. DOA will work with agencies to address each of the IT security concerns found in the report and develop plans by August 31, 2021 for ensuring compliance.

Co-Chairpersons Cowles and Kerkman

Page 2

November 13, 2020

Ensure Compliance with IT Security Policy Handbook

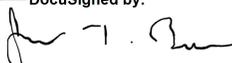
LAB recommended that DOA ensure all state agencies, including itself, comply with the IT Security Policy Handbook. DOA has developed a method to monitor state agency compliance with the IT Security Policy Handbook. A baseline was established with Executive Branch Agencies as of June 30, 2020. The new method requires agency participation with identified deliverables allowing DOA to work with state agencies to achieve compliance in a timely manner when noncompliance is identified.

Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee

LAB recommended that DOA submit to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee a report on its efforts to implement its security-related recommendations by November 13, 2020. This report constitutes DOA's compliance with the recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Committee on our efforts to implement LAB's recommendations.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

DBED3E4417D74CC...

Joel T. Brennan
Secretary