

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
Chief Financial Officer Directive 2020-14**

**WHEREAS**, the mobile application TikTok, is a video-sharing application, owned by the Chinese company ByteDance Ltd., which has reportedly been downloaded over 175 million times in the United States and over one billion times globally.

**WHEREAS**, The Company ByteDance Ltd. i.e. Zijié Tiàodòng is headquartered in Beijing, China.

**WHEREAS**, TikTok captures vast swaths of information from its users, including Internet and other network activity information such as location data, browsing and search history; and

**WHEREAS**, Tiktok's privacy policy states that Tiktok records keystroke patterns entered on devices that have downloaded the app; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 16 of China's 2017 National Intelligence Law authorizes Chinese intelligence officials to "enter relevant restricted areas and venues; learn from and question relevant institutions, organizations and individuals and *read or collect relevant files, materials or items.*" (emphasis added); and

**WHEREAS**, Department of Financial Services (Department) employees have access to various secure systems including the State Treasury, law enforcement records, and other information made confidential from public disclosure pursuant to Florida Statute; and

**WHEREAS**, Department Administrative Policy and Procedure 4-04 authorizes the Department to restrict installation of social media platforms on DFS-issued devices; and.

**WHEREAS**, Department Administrative Policy and Procedure 4-04 authorizes the Department DFS to inspect any and all files stored on any network or local IT resource including removable media, such as USB drives, CDs, and tapes; and

**WHEREAS**, Department Administrative Policy and Procedure 4-04 prohibits the installation, introduction, downloading, access or distribution of (1) Software not specifically licensed to DFS or any affiliated entities, (2) Instant messaging Software, unless such software is approved by the Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Department Administrative Policy and Procedure 4-04 prohibits the downloading of malicious software, either through willful intent or negligent action; and.

**WHEREAS**, Employees who access DFS networks from their personal devices, make their personal phones potential targets for persons and entities looking to penetrate DFS' information technology systems; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the keystroke logging and other information-gathering capabilities of TikTok, the Chief Financial Officer has concluded that the security risks TikTok presents far outweigh any benefit the application could provide to official business of the Department.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, JIMMY PATRONIS**, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution, and Sections 17.30 and 20.121(1), Florida Statutes, hereby issue the following Directive to all employees of the Department:

Section 1. Effective August 12, 2020, downloading, installing, or using the application TikTok on any DFS-issued device is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. Effective August 12, 2020, using the application TikTok on any personal device while in any DFS facility during the workday is hereby prohibited.

Section 3. Violations of this Directive may result in disciplinary action, in accordance with Rule 60L-36, Florida Administrative Code, Sections 110.604, and 110.403, Florida Statutes, as applicable, and Administrative Policy and Procedure 5-26, Standards and Procedures of Discipline Career Service Employees.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020

  
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JIMMY PATRONIS, CHIEF FINANCIAL  
OFFICER