



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 31, 2025

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE
11:45 AM O'CLOCK

JAN 31 2025


Secretary of State

The Honorable Jane Nelson
Secretary of State
State Capitol, Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

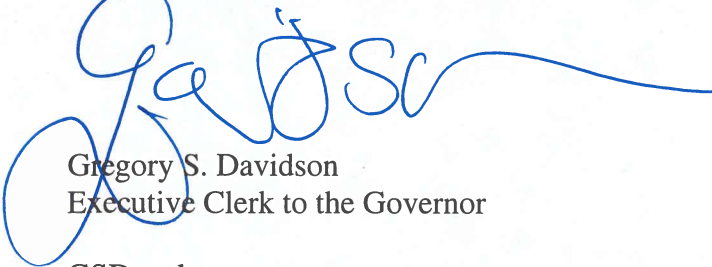
Dear Secretary Nelson:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

A proclamation identifying several social media applications that pose a security risk to the State of Texas and prohibiting their installation or use on governmental devices.

The original proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD:gsd

Attachment

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2022, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, ordered every state executive agency in Texas to ban its officers and employees from downloading or using on any of its government-issued devices the application TikTok, which is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance Limited; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, I signed Senate Bill 1893 into law, which gives me the authority to identify other social media applications or services that pose a security risk to Texas, including “successor applications” to TikTok and applications “developed or ... owned by ByteDance Limited”; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Congress passed the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, which made it unlawful to distribute TikTok unless the U.S. operation of the platform was severed from its Chinese owner by January 19, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the Act against constitutional challenge in *TikTok Inc. v. Garland*, Nos. 24-656 & 24-657 (U.S. Jan. 17, 2025), which resulted in the shutdown of TikTok on January 19, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in the days leading up to its eventual shut-down, TikTok began promoting to its users certain successor applications or alternative services, including RedNote and Lemon8; and

WHEREAS, the social media application RedNote, whose name in the original Mandarin (小红书) is a reference to the founder of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and former Communist Party of China Chairman Mao Zedong’s “Little Red Book,” is owned by a Xingyin Information Technology, a company headquartered in the PRC; and

WHEREAS, RedNote provides content to users based on its algorithm and allows users to share text, photos, and videos, and shop for commercial goods; and

WHEREAS, the social media application Lemon8 is owned by ByteDance Limited, a company headquartered in the PRC and the ultimate owner of TikTok; and

WHEREAS, Lemon8 provides content to users based on its algorithm and allows users to post photos and videos, including captions, and to follow and interact with other users by liking posts; and

WHEREAS, both RedNote and Lemon8 collect significant amounts of user data, including location, browsing activity, and device-specific information like IP addresses; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the PRC National Intelligence Law of 2017 compels all companies located in the PRC to support, assist, and cooperate with PRC intelligence services, and legally obligates those entities to turn over data collected domestically or abroad to the PRC upon request; and

WHEREAS, because the providers of both RedNote and Lemon8 are headquartered in the PRC, they are required pursuant to the PRC’s National Intelligence Law of 2017 to

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turn over the private personal information of users collected by the applications to the PRC upon request and without due process rights or legal protections for users; and

WHEREAS, both applications therefore pose a security risk to Texas under Section 620.002(1) of the Texas Government Code, which defines security risk based on the possibility that an application provider “may be required by a foreign government ... to provide confidential or private personal information collected by the provider through the application ... to the foreign government” without certain legal protections or based on any “similar risk to the security of this state’s sensitive information”; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Texas may by proclamation identify social media applications that pose such a security risk to the State under Section 620.005 of the Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, social media applications identified by the Governor must be included in governmental entities’ policies “prohibiting the installation or use” of banned applications “on any device owned or leased by the governmental entity” under Section 620.003(a) of the Texas Government Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 620.005 of the Texas Government Code, identify RedNote and Lemon8 as social media applications that pose a security risk to the State of Texas and hereby prohibit the installation or use of either application on any device owned or leased by a governmental entity of this State or a local government within this State.

I HEREBY DIRECT that a copy of this proclamation be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 31st day of January, 2025.

Handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in black ink.

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

Handwritten signature of Jane Nelson in black ink.

JANE NELSON
Secretary of State

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