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No.03 An Order Mandating Openness, Transparency, And Accountability

Bill Lee

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SECRETARY OF STATE
PUBLICATIONS



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 3

AN ORDER MANDATING OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, this Administration recognizes, understands, and appreciates the right of its citizens to be informed, to have access to government and to governmental records, and to have the proper checks and balances in place to assure government's accountability to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, this Administration intends to set a high standard for openness, transparency, and accountability; and

WHEREAS, this Administration further recognizes that the character of those holding governmental positions is the cornerstone on which the effectiveness of those policies is based; and

WHEREAS, this superseding Executive Order No. 3 underscores the commitment of this Administration to the values of open and accountable government.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee, do hereby declare that it is the unwavering policy of the Executive Branch to facilitate the right of Tennesseans to know and have access to information with which they may hold state government accountable.

Accordingly, I direct the Chief of Staff and Counsel to the Governor, with assistance from the commissioner of each Executive Branch department, to arrange for training for all members of my Cabinet and employees of the Executive Branch departments regarding the statutory and other legal requirements related to open meetings, open records, applicable ethics and disclosure requirements, and all other matters related to and affecting these issues. Such training is directed to occur within 120 days of this Order and to recur with reasonable frequency to promote this overriding policy of openness, transparency, and accountability. In particular, I direct the commissioner of each Executive Branch department and the other members of my Cabinet to take

steps in their respective areas of responsibility that are necessary not only to comply with applicable legal requirements related to openness, transparency, and accountability, but also to foster a prevailing mindset of inclusiveness in governmental processes and a recurrent pattern of explaining the bases for Executive Branch decisions at appropriate times.

This Executive Order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Executive Branch of the State of Tennessee and does not create any right to administrative or judicial review, or any other right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the State of Tennessee, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

This Executive Order No. 3 supersedes and rescinds Governor Haslam's Executive Order No. 2, dated January 15, 2011, and all other directives and memoranda concerning the same subject. All previous executive orders, the terms of which are inconsistent with the terms of this Executive Order No. 3, are hereby repealed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 24th day of January, 2019.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

