

ILLINOIS STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON RESTRICTED TECHNOLOGY

MAY 2023

Overview

- Between 2021 and 2023, the state of Illinois spent \$8,473 on restricted Chinese technology from Lenovo, Inc. Just a few of the agencies holding sensitive information that have purchased these products include:
 - The Office of the Secretary of State
 - The Office of the Fire Marshall

Progress

- In March 2023, Representative Blaine Wilhour introduced [HB 3581](#) creating the Prairie State Infrastructure Protection Act, providing that a business entity in the State may not enter into a contract or other agreement relating to critical infrastructure in the State with a company, under the contract or agreement, would be able to directly or remotely access or control critical infrastructure in the State and is associated with China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, or another designated county.

The Problem

- Chinese government-owned technology manufacturers Lenovo and Lexmark have been restricted from U.S. military and intelligence agencies due to their connection to the Chinese government and military. While federal policy directs information security at the federal level, states must determine their own security standards making states vulnerable to intrusion through the purchase of these risky Chinese technology products. For more detail on these two manufacturers and others, see our briefing paper at www.StatesStopChinaTech.com.

The Process

- In January 2023, China Tech Threat (CTT) obtained Illinois' detailed financial records of payments to Lexmark and Lenovo, showing payment amounts, dates and check numbers, payor agencies or departments, and descriptions of services, through itap.illinois.gov, a database generated by the state's accounting system and made available to improve transparency.

- However, purchases of restricted technology through third-party resellers, which can be significant, are not yet captured in our research. Any future efforts to identify and restrict purchases of Chinese-owned technology manufacturers should include resellers.
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Lenovo

In 2023, \$176 of technology purchased, including:

- All purchases by the Illinois Student Assistance Office

In 2021, \$8,296 of technology purchased, including:

- The Office of the Secretary of State: \$8,173
- Select purchases by the Office of the Fire Marshall