

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES ARREST OF GEORGIA MAN FOR FELONY VIOLATION OF THE ALABAMA DIGITAL CRIME ACT

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange and Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center Director Maury Mitchell, a member of the Attorney General's Special Prosecution Alliance, announced the arrest of a Georgia man for felony violations related to attempts to access confidential information systems maintained by the State of Alabama. Thomas Jack Hixon, 19, of Chickamauga, surrendered yesterday at the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office.

Attorney General Strange's Office presented evidence to a Calhoun County grand jury on October 31 resulting in Hixon's indictment*. Specifically, the indictment charges Hixon with one felony count of computer tampering by attempting to access confidential information from a computer network that is operated by the State. The indictment also charges Hixon with one felony count of seeking to obtain criminal offender record information under false pretenses.

If convicted, Hixon faces a penalty of one year and a day to 10 years and a fine of not more than \$15,000 for attempted computer tampering, which is a class C Felony, and up to five years and a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 for seeking to obtain criminal offender record information under false pretenses, which is an unclassified felony.

No further information about the investigation or about Hixon's alleged crimes other than that stated in the indictment may be released at this time.

The Attorney General commended Assistant Attorney General Pete Smyczek of the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Division, and thanked the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, which investigated the case. The Attorney General also thanked the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Chickamauga Police Department for their assistance in this case.

**Note: An indictment is merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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