

SUBJECT: Requiring DIR to develop a data portal for state agencies' use

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Phelan, Hernandez, Deshotel, Guerra, Harless, Holland, Hunter, P. King, Parker, E. Rodriguez, Smithee, Springer

0 nays

1 absent — Raymond

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 26 — 30-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: For — Megan Schrader, Amazon Web Services

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ed Kelly, Department of Information Resources)

BACKGROUND: Interested parties have suggested that statewide digital information services could be improved if recommendations from the Department of Information Resources were implemented.

DIGEST: SB 819 would require the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to develop and manage a data portal for use by state agencies and to create a digital transformation guide for agency use.

DIR would be required to establish the Texas Open Data Portal, a central repository of publicly accessible electronic data that would be the official open data internet website for the state. The department would have to ensure that state agencies and political subdivisions of the state were granted shared access to the repository that would allow the agencies and subdivisions to easily post publicly accessible information to the repository. Each state agency would be required to prioritize using the data portal and actively collaborate with the department on publicly

accessible data issues.

The bill would rename the statewide data coordinator as the chief data officer and repeal the position's expiration date. The chief data officer would be charged with assisting DIR in developing and managing the Texas Open Data Portal. The officer would have to develop and implement best practices among state agencies to encourage agencies to collect and post information related to their functions or other data they maintained to the data portal.

SB 819 also would require DIR to create a digital transformation guide to assist state agencies with modernizing their electronic data operations and services and converting agency information into electronic data. DIR would be authorized to provide:

- mobile application development assistance;
- paper document and form inventory assistance;
- paperless or paper-on-request operational process planning and development; and
- electronic notification and digital communication between agencies and the public.

Under the bill, each state agency would be required to consider cloud service options and compatibility with cloud computing services in the development of new information technology software applications.

Each state agency also would be required to designate an agency employee to serve as the agency's information resources manager. An information resources manager could serve two or more state agencies if the DIR approved the joint designation.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.