

- SUBJECT:** Expanding cybersecurity council to include elections official
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — Paddie, Hernandez, Deshotel, Harless, Howard, Hunter, P. King, Lucio, Metcalf, Raymond, Shaheen, Slawson, Smithee
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Susan Schultz, League of Women Voters of Texas; Stephanie Hoffman; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Daniel Hankins and Nancy Rainosek, Department of Information Resources; Adam Bitter, Secretary of State)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 2054.512 requires the state cybersecurity coordinator to lead a council of public and private sector leaders and cybersecurity practitioners to collaborate and provide recommendations on cybersecurity matters. The council includes one employee of the Office of the Governor, one senator, one House member, and additional members appointed by the coordinator.
- Some have called for the council's membership to be expanded to include an official from the elections division of the Office of the Secretary of State due to recent reported threats to the cyber infrastructure of the state's voting systems.
- DIGEST:** HB 2065 would expand the membership of the cybersecurity council to include an employee from the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.