

SUBJECT: Requiring voting systems be manufactured in U.S., sold by U.S. company

COMMITTEE: Elections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Cain, Clardy, Jetton, Schofield, Swanson

4 nays — J. González, Beckley, Bucy, Fierro

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 14 — 31-0

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Interested parties have raised concerns about the potential vulnerability of voting systems manufactured outside the United States or by non-American companies and the possibility of interference with these systems.

DIGEST: SB 1387 would specify that for a voting system or voting system equipment to be approved for use in elections, the system in which the equipment was designed to be used would have to be manufactured, stored, and held in the United States and sold by a company whose headquarters and parent company's headquarters, if applicable, were located in the United States. This requirement would apply beginning September 1, 2021.

A voting system or voting system equipment would be considered to be manufactured in the United States if final assembly of the system or system equipment occurred, and all firmware and software were installed and tested in the United States.

The secretary of state would be required to conduct a comprehensive study to determine the feasibility of the bill's provisions. A detailed report summarizing the findings of the study would have to be completed and delivered to the Legislature by January 1, 2023.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds

record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021.

NOTES:

The House companion bill, HB 1314 by Hefner, was considered by the House Elections Committee in public hearings on April 8 and April 15, reported favorably as substituted, and placed on the General State Calendar for May 12.