

SUBJECT: Requiring DIR to employ a chief information security officer

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 11 ayes — Hunter, Dean, Geren, Guillen, Metcalf, Raymond, Slawson, Smithee, Spiller, S. Thompson, Turner

0 nays

2 absent — Hernandez, Anchía

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (March 23) — 31 - 0

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Sloan Byerly, Tanium; Rahul Sreenivasan, Texas 2036; Rebecca Grande, Texas Association of Business)

Against — None

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

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that the role of chief information security officer for the Department of Information Resources should be codified in statute.

DIGEST: CSSB 621 would require the executive director of the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to employ a chief information security officer, using existing funds. The chief information security officer would oversee:

- implementing certain existing DIR duties related to cybersecurity;
- responding to certain reports of cybersecurity breaches or suspected breaches;
- developing and implementing a statewide information security framework and statewide policies and standards;

- collaborating with state agencies, local governments, and other relevant entities to strengthen cybersecurity and information security;
- providing leadership, strategic direction, and coordination for the state information security program;
- providing strategic direction to DIR's network security center and statewide technology centers; and
- preparing and submitting the statutorily required annual cybersecurity report to certain state elected officials.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.