

- SUBJECT:** Expanding cybersecurity council to include Secretary of State employee
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — Phelan, Hernandez, Deshotel, Guerra, Harless, Holland, Hunter, P. King, Parker, Raymond, E. Rodriguez, Smithee, Springer
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Damon Fleury, CyberDefenses, Inc.; Cinde Weatherby, League of Women Voters of Texas; Adrian Shelley, Public Citizen; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Anthony Gutierrez, Common Cause Texas; Jeff Miller, Disability Rights Texas; Sarah Norman, Protect Democracy; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ernesto Ballesteros and Todd Kimbriel, Department of Information Resources; Keith Ingram, Texas Secretary of State Elections Division)
- 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 for legislation on cybersecurity matters.
- The council is required to include an employee of the Office of the Governor, an appointed senator, an appointed House member, and additional members appointed by the coordinator.
- Some have suggested that the council should have a representative for the state's election systems, which have reportedly been the target of cyberattacks in recent years.
- DIGEST:** HB 350 would require the cybersecurity council membership to include an employee from the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of

HB 350  
House Research Organization  
page 2

State.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.