

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.H.B. 2233
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Government Organization
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Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The security of information and communications technology resources is a shared responsibility that requires continuous, coordinated, and focused efforts. Texas state government infrastructure is a critical resource that needs to remain functional and secure. Over 19 million incidents related to information technology security were detected and reported to the Department of Information Resources (DIR) by state entities during fiscal year 2006. As a result of effective detection and antivirus measures, the scope of the actual infections was minimized. Still, state entities expended an estimated 8,400 hours in remediation efforts, at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.9 million. Improvements to the state's information and network security programs are needed to reduce the vulnerability of the state's infrastructure to attacks, which are increasing in number, complexity, and severity. To cope with these and other information security attacks, DIR and state agencies need to work together to identify and assess vulnerabilities and remediate potential risks to keep the state's networks open, operational, and secure.

C.S.H.B. 2233 requires regular risk assessments, vulnerability testing, and timely and more complete reporting of computer security incidents.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Department of Information Resources in SECTIONS 4 and 6 (Sections 2054.064 and 2054.114, Government Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter F, Chapter 411, Government Code, by adding Section 411.1406, as follows:

Sec. 411.1406. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION: DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES. (a) Entitles the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to obtain from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) or another appropriate law enforcement agency the criminal history record information (information) maintained by DPS or other law enforcement agency that relates to certain persons.

(b) Authorizes information obtained by DIR under Subsection (a) to be used only to evaluate certain persons.

(c) Prohibits information obtained by DIR under this section from being released or disclosed to any person or agency except on court order or with the consent of the person who is the subject of the information.

(d) Requires DIR to destroy the information obtained by this section after the information is used for the purposes authorized by this section.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter D, Chapter 551, Government Code, by adding Section 551.089, as follows:

Sec. 551.089. DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES. Provides that this chapter (Open Meetings) does not require the governing board of DIR to conduct

meetings to deliberate security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology, certain network security information, and the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 552.139, Government Code, as follows:

Sec. 552.139. New heading: EXCEPTION: GOVERNMENT INFORMATION RELATED TO SECURITY OR INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES FOR COMPUTERS. (a) Provides that certain information is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 (Availability of Public Information), including information relating to restricted information under Section 2059.055 (Restricted Information).

(b) Provides that certain reports and assessments are confidential, including any other assessment of the extent to which the system interface of a governmental body or of a contractor of a governmental body is vulnerable to unauthorized access or harm, and an assessment of the extent to which the governmental body's or contractor's electronically stored information containing sensitive or critical information is vulnerable to alteration, damage, erasure, or inappropriate use.

(c) Authorizes the information, notwithstanding the confidential nature of the information described in this section, to be disclosed to the bidder if the governmental body determines that providing the information is necessary for the bidder to provide an accurate bid. Provides that a disclosure under this subsection is not a voluntary disclosure for purposes of Section 552.007 (Voluntary Disclosure When Disclosure of Certain Information is Not Required).

SECTION 4. Amends Subchapter C, Chapter 2054, Government Code, by adding Sections 2054.064 and 2054.065, as follows:

Sec. 2054.064. VULNERABILITY STANDARDS. (a) Requires DIR by rule to establish standards for the protection of certain information from internal and external unauthorized access or harm.

(b) Requires DIR by rule to establish standards for performance of risk assessments by state agencies, including of information resources, and the development of vulnerability reports to be used in complying with those adopted rules.

(c) Requires DIR by rule to establish standards for the implementation of physical security and disaster requirements for computer systems that maintain sensitive or critical information. Authorizes the executive director of DIR to establish alternate standards or exceptions to the adopted standards under this subsection for certain classes of servers or mainframes.

Sec. 2054.065. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS. (a) Requires DIR to annually rank state agencies in order of priority for vulnerability assessments based on certain criteria. Requires each agency identified as a priority to be notified and to use the external network vulnerability assessment security services provided through DIR.

(b) Requires DIR to annually conduct a statewide assessment of information technology security resources and practices. Requires DIR to submit a report on the results of the assessment to certain persons not later than December 31 of each year. Provides that the assessment reports are confidential.

(c) Provides that a vulnerability report and supporting documentation provided to the state auditor under Subsection (b) is incorporated into the risk assessment process thereof and is exempt from disclosure under Section 552.116 (Exception: Audit Working Papers).

SECTION 5. Amends Sections 2054.077(b), (d), and (e), Government Code, as follows:

(b) Authorizes the information resources manager of a state agency to prepare or have prepared a vulnerability report, including an executive summary, assessing the extent to which certain programs or systems are vulnerable to unauthorized access or harm, including the extent to which electronically stored information containing sensitive or critical information is vulnerable to alteration, damage, erasure, or inappropriate use.

(d) Requires the information resources manager to provide an electronic copy of the vulnerability report on completion to certain persons, including the agency's executive director.

(e) Provides that the required summary under this subsection is separate from the executive summary described by Subsection (b).

SECTION 6. Amends Subchapter F, Chapter 2054, Government Code, by adding Section 2054.114, as follows:

Sec. 2054.114. COMPUTER INCIDENTS. (a) Defines "computer incident."

(b) Requires a state agency to promptly investigate, document, and report to DIR each suspected or confirmed computer incident that involves certain information.

(c) Requires the state agency, if criminal activity is suspected regarding a computer incident, to contact DIR and appropriate law enforcement and investigative authorities immediately.

(d) Requires DIR to adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 7. Amends Section 2059.001, Government Code, by adding Subdivision (1-a), to define "consolidated state network."

SECTION 8. Requires DIR to adopt rules required by Section 2054.064, Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2008.

SECTION 9. Effective date: September 1, 2007.