

- SUBJECT:** Requiring state agency employees to complete cybersecurity training
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Phelan, Deshotel, Guerra, Harless, Holland, Hunter, P. King, Parker, Raymond, E. Rodriguez, Smithee, Springer
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Hernandez
- WITNESSES:** For — Joe Buser, Traveling Coaches, Inc.; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Russell Mullins, Alterity Solutions, Inc.; Nora Belcher, Texas e-Health Alliance)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Steve Buche, Health and Human Services Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised about the adequacy of state employee cybersecurity training and the resulting vulnerability to attack.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2401 would require all state agency employees who had access to the agency's network or online systems, including email or internet access, to complete training on cybersecurity awareness.
- The training would have to be designed, administered, and maintained by a third-party vendor based in Texas that had offered professional security awareness training for at least three years and provided it to at least 100,000 people.
- The cybersecurity awareness training also would have to meet other requirements listed in the bill, including generating reports that displayed the completion progress of each division of a state agency, each state agency as a whole, and the entire state workforce.

CSHB 2401 would apply only to a state agency that was a department, commission, board, office, or other agency in the executive branch and would not apply to an institution of higher education.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the fiscal impact of the bill could not be determined but could be significant, depending on each agency's current cybersecurity training practices, the number of employees trained and frequency of training, and vendor pricing.