

- SUBJECT:** Expanding Texas Disaster Act to apply to cybersecurity events
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — Paddie, Hernandez, Deshotel, Harless, Howard, Hunter, P. King, Lucio, Metcalf, Raymond, Shaheen, Slawson, Smithee
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Kenneth Lindbloom; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Russell Schaffner, Tarrant County; Stephanie Hoffman; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Daniel Hankins and Nancy Rainosek, Department of Information Resources)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised about whether laws governing the state's emergency management systems adequately address cybersecurity attacks, which could affect the preparedness for and orderly restoration in response to a cybersecurity threat to the state's networks.
- DIGEST:** HB 2066 would expand the purposes of Government Code ch. 418, the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, to include reducing the vulnerability of people and communities to cybersecurity events.
- During a cybersecurity event, the governor could order the Department of Information Resources to disconnect from the internet a computer network used by a state agency or by an entity receiving security services from the department.
- 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.