

By: Israel

H.B. No. 1421

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to cybersecurity of voter registration lists and other
3 election-related documents, systems, and technology.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Title 16, Election Code, is amended by adding
6 Chapter 279 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 279. CYBERSECURITY OF ELECTION SYSTEMS

8 Sec. 279.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "election data"
9 means voter registration information and other election-related
10 documents, systems, and technology.

11 Sec. 279.002. ELECTION CYBERSECURITY: SECRETARY OF STATE.

12 (a) The secretary of state shall adopt rules establishing best
13 practices for the electronic storage and security of election data.

14 (b) The secretary of state shall offer training on best
15 practices:

16 (1) on an annual basis, to all appropriate personnel
17 in the secretary of state's office; and

18 (2) on request, to county election officers in this
19 state.

20 (c) If the secretary of state becomes aware of a breach of
21 cybersecurity that impacts election data, the secretary shall
22 immediately notify the members of the standing committees of each
23 house of the legislature with jurisdiction over elections.

24 Sec. 279.003. ELECTION CYBERSECURITY: VOTER REGISTRARS AND

1 COUNTY CLERKS. (a) A voter registrar or county clerk shall
2 request training on cybersecurity:

3 (1) from the secretary of state; and

4 (2) on an annual basis from another provider of
5 cybersecurity training, if the registrar or clerk has available
6 state funds for that purpose.

7 (b) If a voter registrar or county clerk becomes aware of a
8 breach of cybersecurity that impacts election data, the registrar
9 or clerk shall immediately notify the secretary of state.

10 (c) To the extent that state funds are available for the
11 purpose, a voter registrar or county clerk shall implement endpoint
12 security to ensure that all devices with access to election data
13 comply to the highest extent possible with rules adopted by the
14 secretary of state under Section 279.002.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.