By:  Paxton S.B. No. 1696

(In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2021; March 26, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 13, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0, one present not voting; April 13, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Taylor            X

Lucio                X

Bettencourt          X

Hall                 X

Hughes               X

Menéndez             X

Paxton               X

Perry                                X

Powell               X

Schwertner           X

West                 X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing a system for the sharing of information regarding cyber attacks or other cybersecurity incidents occurring in schools in this state.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 11.175, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsections (g), (h), and (i) to read as follows:

(e)  The district's cybersecurity coordinator shall report to the agency or, if applicable, the entity that administers the system established under Subsection (g) any cyber attack or other cybersecurity incident against the district cyberinfrastructure that constitutes a breach of system security as soon as practicable after the discovery of the attack or incident.

(g)  The agency, in coordination with the Department of Information Resources, shall establish and maintain a system to coordinate the anonymous sharing of information concerning cyber attacks or other cybersecurity incidents between public and private schools and the state. The system must:

(1)  include each report made under Subsection (e);

(2)  provide for reports made under Subsection (e) to be shared between schools in as close to real time as possible; and

(3)  preserve a reporting school's anonymity by preventing the disclosure through the system of the name of the school at which an attack or incident occurred.

(h)  In establishing the system under Subsection (g), the agency may:

(1)  contract with a qualified third party to administer the system; and

(2)  allow open-enrollment charter schools and private schools in this state to report and receive information through the system.

(i)  The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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