

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1686

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring the cybersecurity council to conduct a study concerning the cybersecurity of school districts.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "council" means the cybersecurity council established under Section 2054.512, Government Code.

SECTION 2. STUDY CONCERNING CYBERSECURITY OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS. (a) The council shall conduct a study to determine:

(1) how school districts can improve their ability to protect against cybersecurity risks and threats; and

(2) how school districts can address rising cybersecurity costs.

(b) The council may, if necessary and as appropriate, partner with a nonprofit entity or institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, to conduct the study.

(c) In conducting the study, the council shall consider:

(1) the current best practices used by school districts for cybersecurity controls for their information systems to protect against vulnerabilities and to address rising cybersecurity costs;

(2) barriers or challenges for school districts in purchasing or acquiring cybersecurity products or services;

(3) the availability of resources school districts

1 need to respond to and recover from a cybersecurity event;

2 (4) the impact of cybersecurity incidents that have  
3 affected school districts, including the resulting costs to school  
4 districts;

5 (5) to the extent possible, any emerging cybersecurity  
6 risks and threats to school districts resulting from the deployment  
7 of new technologies; and

8 (6) any other issues the council determines would have  
9 a future impact on cybersecurity for school districts.

10 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2026, the  
11 council shall prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant  
12 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the  
13 legislature a written report that contains:

14 (1) the results of the study conducted under Section 2  
15 of this Act, including the amount of money school districts are  
16 paying for cybersecurity insurance in this state; and

17 (2) recommendations for best practices and controls  
18 for school districts to implement in order to:

19 (A) update and protect their information systems  
20 against cybersecurity risks and threats; and

21 (B) address rising cybersecurity costs.

22 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION OF ACT. This Act expires September 1,  
23 2027.

24 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
25 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
26 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
27 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for

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1 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.