

Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-933

Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CYBERSECURITY TASK FORCE.

Vote Date: 3/16/2023

Vote Action: JOINT FAVORABLE

PH Date: 2/14/2023

File No.: 339

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Cybersecurity continues to be a critical issue in our state, protecting information and infrastructure needs to be addressed within the state and local governments with collaboration with the private sector. This task force will develop a strategic plan that includes findings and recommendations and submit by January 1, 2024, a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of such matters.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Judicial Branch, External Affairs Division, State of Connecticut

Judicial Branch supports this bill. Given the importance of this task force's work, coordinating the state's agencies and constituent units, the Judicial Branch feels it would be wise to include a representative from the judicial branch. Respectfully they would like to have the membership include The Chief Court Administrator or the Chief Court Administrator's designee.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Hospital Association

CHA supports this bill. Cybersecurity is critical to hospitals as it protects personal data, the association would like to be named to the task force to represent the healthcare industry. HIPAA requirements have made the hospitals one of the industries dealing with cybersecurity. This makes hospitals an important resource regarding infrastructure, architecture and the drivers that affect how cybersecurity is managed in the field.

Betsy Gara, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Small Towns

Ms. Gara writes in support of this bill. Currently COST is participating in State and Local Cybersecurity Planning Committee which is a subcommittee of CT Cyber Security Committee of the CT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisory Council that was established by the bylaws on July 29, 2019. COST supports these efforts though it is unclear how the taskforce created in SB933 will coordinate with the state's ongoing cybersecurity strategy.

Elizabeth Gara, Connecticut Water Works Association

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has identified water utilities as a critical infrastructure sector that needs to be prepared to address cybersecurity challenges. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority released a report regarding the steps needed to strengthen preparedness for cybersecurity attacks on electricity, natural gas and water sectors. PURA recognizes the ever-changing nature of cyber threats that could occur. Recognizing this, Connecticut's water utilities stand ready to work with the task force and state agencies to continue efforts to protect the public water supply.

James McGovern, Hartford Chapter Leader, OWASP

Mr. McGovern is in support of this bill. Mr. McGovern submitted two pieces of testimony. Cybersecurity will be upgraded when the market requires it. When a software requests from the state and municipalities a vendor should be asked to provide details on how they test their products for security vulnerabilities. By requesting this information vendors of off-the-shelf software and outsourced developers will realize that government value the security. Mr. McGovern is a cybersecurity professional; his second testimony writes in detail what he feels should be done regarding the composition of the taskforce.

Mike Muszynski, Chief Strategy Officer, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Mr. Muszynski is in support of this bill. CCM appreciates that the task force includes members from all municipalities regardless of size. This will allow them to share their issues and concerns. Given there is a State and Local Cyber Security Committee of the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisory Council, CCM is hopeful that any task force created will work with and support existing efforts.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Assistant Clerk

Date: 03/20/2023