
Higher Education Committee

HB 1697

Brief Description: Addressing the cybersecurity and information technology professional shortage by requiring a study of incentive methods for attracting high-demand talent in information technology and cybersecurity to state agencies.

Sponsors: Representatives Hudgins, Harmsworth, Manweller, Tarleton and Stanford.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires the Student Achievement Council to lead a study on the demand for, and options to incentivize, information technology and cybersecurity students to work at state agencies after graduation.

Hearing Date: 2/8/17

Staff: Megan Mulvihill (786-7304).

Background:

Information technology (IT) is the study or application of systems, computers, networks, and software for storing, retrieving, and sending information. Cybersecurity is about securing electronic data against criminal or unauthorized use by protecting computers, networks, and programs. IT and cybersecurity degrees may also include things like computer networking, cybersecurity technology, cybersecurity or IT management and policy, or software development and security. IT and cybersecurity students may also earn specializations or certificates in certain software programs and project management. Many government agencies have IT and cybersecurity needs to implement, maintain, and protect large computer systems and databases of information that often hold sensitive or personally identifiable information.

Summary of Bill:

The Student Achievement Council (Council), in collaboration with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating

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Board, must study the demand for qualified IT and cybersecurity employees at state agencies. The study must address the need for individuals with specializations or certifications in IT and cybersecurity. The Council must review methods to incentivize and attract students in IT or cybersecurity certificate or degree programs to work for state agencies after graduation. The methods may include conditional loan or scholarship programs, loan forgiveness programs, or stipend incentives. The Council's report is due to the Legislature by January 1, 2018.

The act expires July 1, 2018.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 01/31/2017.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.