



LFC Requester: Hilla

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
BILL ANALYSIS  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date Prepared: 02/04 /25  
Bill No: SB254

**Agency Name and Code:** PED - 924

**Sponsor:** Padilla

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**Short Title:** CYBERSECURITY ACT &  
OFFICE CHANGES

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
None	None	N/A	NFA

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: House Bill 141, the current version of the General Appropriation Act, proposes appropriations of:

- approximately \$6.5 million from the general fund to the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for their cybersecurity program.
- \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts to upgrade cybersecurity tools, contingent upon compliance with DoIT's minimum cybersecurity standards.

- \$15 million from the general fund to DoIT for cybersecurity initiatives including those for public schools, with expenditure extended through FY26.

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Senate Bill 254 (SB254) would amend the [Cybersecurity Act](#) to change the name of the Cybersecurity Office to the Office of Cybersecurity. It would change the scope of duties of the Cybersecurity Office from developing security controls for infrastructure connected to “agency-operated” or “agency-owned” networks to infrastructure connected to “state-operated” or “state-owned” networks. SB254 modifies membership for the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee and provides for the chair of the committee to be a voting member. The updated provisions include one new appointee from the governor, for a total of four, representing various members with cybersecurity expertise in education, healthcare, homeland security, and the private sector.

The bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective June 20, 2025.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

This bill does not contain an appropriation.

The change in scope of the Office of Cybersecurity’s duties from the development of minimum cybersecurity controls for managing and protecting information for *agency-owned or -operated* telecommunications networks to *state-owned or -operated networks* would likely have an effect upon the expenditures or revenues tied to those duties, although that effect is indeterminate, as yet. “Agency” in the Cybersecurity Act is defined to mean, “executive cabinet agencies and their administratively attached agencies, offices, boards and commissions.” Since most agency-owned networks are already also, perforce, state-owned, the change in wording would likely serve to capture any networks owned or operated directly by the state or owned and operated by either the legislature or judiciary.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The bill would expand the scope of the Office of Cybersecurity’s responsibilities and oversight to include networks operated by entities of the state beyond only executive agencies and their administratively attached adjuncts. While the membership of the proposed Cybersecurity Advisory Council would be amended to include an appointee who is an educator or employed by an education institution, the bill’s provisions do not apply to most entities that offer public K-12 education, as they do not meet the current definition of “agency” and are not state-owned or operated. Exceptions would include the state-operated Schools for the Deaf and for the Blind and Visually Impaired, for example. Most school districts are considered local public bodies, and do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Cybersecurity Act, either currently or as amended by SB254.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SB254 would require updates to advisory committee membership by including an appointed educator or employee of an education institution with cybersecurity expertise.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to:

- House Bill 20, Technology and Innovation Division, which proposes to create that division within EDD, and whose duties include addressing certain “target sectors” which are defined to include cybersecurity.
- House Bill 60, which proposes the Artificial Intelligence Act.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

None.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.