# CS332 Midterm

## The State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2021

1. What does the new “The State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2021” law do?

* The State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act (S. 2520) passed in Congress which is now law since 2021, enforces Cybersecurity collaboration between the federal and local government entities (state, local, tribal, territorial). More specifically the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will provide training, put in act new policies to the local entites, provide hands on technical assistance, and mandate information sharing ‘about Cybersecurity related risks/indicents’ between federal and local entities.

1. Describe how it impacts the Cybersecurity community and penetration testing.

* The cost estimate of implementing this law for the next 5 year period is $500,000. This might seem strange but in fact the DHS has been already conducting these coordination activities and this law is simply codifying what the DHS has already been responsible for thus giving them the complete authority to do so. Over the next 5 years there will actually be no new operating requirements from S. 2520, but looking onward I suspect that this can have two completely different outcomes on Cybersecurity.
* In S. 2520 section F there is heavy emphasis on promoting the security of elections through collaboration between chief officals of all government entities to enforce policies and procedures related to the security of election systems. I think that in the long term this law is setting the foundation of locking down election systems and treating election systems as critical systems themselves using the same security design and procedures that would give them the fault tolerance of computers of the likes of that power our infrustructure and send send objects to orbit. This is a problem that has caused divide and heart-ache between the American people.
* One direction I see this impacting Cybersecurity and penetration testing in the future is the plethora of openings that need to be filled for Cybersecurity experts working for the DHS and local government entities. Due to the scope of all those jobs that need to be filled and the incompetency of the government to gather these individuals to work for the local government and DHS, they will create new standardized education to fill these jobs. Further study on good solutions for this problem can be beneficial, a new Cybersecurity certification offered by the federal govenment or making Cybersecurity courses ubiquitous at every education institution at the community college and upperclass high school level; Funnelling students into roles that help the government at the local levels.
* No matter the outcome of this bill I can say that S. 2520 will negatively effect black-hat hackers by tighting up the security on low hanging fruit targets they would otherwise hack or not get caught hacking. Penetration testers will now have to be careful when running intrusive enumeration scanning techniques on I.P. address space ranges that might contain hosts to government entities.

### Sources

* [Senate Bill](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2520/text)
* [Cost Estimate](https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57504)