



March 24, 2021

The Honorable Kelly Hancock
Chair
Senate Committee on Business
and Commerce
The Texas Capitol
1100 Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701

The Honorable Robert Nichols
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Business
and Commerce
The Texas Capitol
1100 Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701

Internet Association Supports IT Modernization Efforts In Texas Through SB1197

Dear Chair Hancock and Vice-Chair Nichols:

Internet Association (IA) represents the world's leading internet companies and supports policies that promote and enable internet innovation, including commercial cloud solutions. Our member companies are global leaders in the drive to develop lower cost, more secure, innovative, and most importantly, enjoyable, digital government services, with a focus on both the civil servants delivering those services and the residents receiving them.

On behalf of our members, I am writing to thank you for your consideration of [Senate Bill 1197](#) (SB1197), which will provide key decision makers with the data they need to create and follow through with a successful information technology (IT) modernization plan, providing a modern and resident-focused digital government for all Texans, and we encourage you to pass it along with a few suggested amendments to the proposed language.

Building on the success and hard work of all the IT-focused teams throughout the state, SB1197 will give every one of those agencies and departments - as well as those who are a little further behind - the kind of support they need to pursue a successful statewide IT modernization effort. By requiring IT modernization plans include the information outlined throughout Section 1 subsection (b), and in particular, the information outlined in paragraph (5), the Governor, the Legislature, and the state workforce itself will have the opportunity to provide a truly objective assessment of the current state of the IT landscape. With a few small changes, this bill will ensure the IT modernization plans presented are successfully implemented.

In particular, requiring annual updates to the plans as outlined in the suggestions provided in Section 1 subsection (d) of the accompanying redlines will give stakeholders the information necessary to see what is working, what needs additional help, and what should be done to maintain momentum going forward. Even further to that point, by adding language similar to that being proposed in the new Section 1 subsection (e) and subsection (f), the state will ensure legacy IT never takes root in an agency's IT infrastructure again, and if it does, that it can be quickly managed and dealt with.



The coordination of the IT modernization plans that are required by SB1197 with the State Strategic Plan (SSP) for Information Resources Management being developed by the Department of Information Resources (DIR) for 2022-2026 and the future iterations of the Texas Cybersecurity Strategic Plan (CSP) that was developed by the Office of the Chief Information Security Officer within DIR for Fiscal Years 2018-2023 will give these plans and these efforts a home and a sustained pipeline of support.

This is a rare opportunity to provide the state of Texas the information and long-term support necessary to make the state a role model throughout the nation when it comes to a statewide IT modernization effort. With your support and inclusion of these suggested changes in the final version of the SB1197, everyone in the Lone Star State will soon be able to take advantage of all the services the state has to offer, in a seamless and consistent fashion, whether they are on the road or in the comfort of their own home.

We appreciate your time in considering our feedback and look forward to the opportunity to discuss the benefits of the bill and the proposed changes with you in further detail.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Hines'.

James Hines
Director, Government Affairs, Southern Region

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Omid Ghaffari-Tabrizi'.

Omid Ghaffari-Tabrizi,
Director, Cloud Policy

Cc: The Honorable Donna Campbell
The Honorable Brandon Creighton
The Honorable Nathan Johnson
The Honorable José Menéndez
The Honorable Angela Paxton
The Honorable Charles Schwertner
The Honorable John Whitmire

Enc: Suggested Redlines

By: Powell

S.B. No. 1197

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state agency information technology and data services modernization plans.

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

SECTION 1. (a) Not later than October 1, 2022, each state agency in the executive and legislative branches of state government, using money appropriated to the agency by this state, shall prepare a 5-year agencywide plan outlining the manner in which the agency intends to transition its information technology and data-related services and capabilities into a more modern, integrated, secure, and effective technological environment.

(b) The plan must:

- (1) describe the agency's project management processes;
- (2) identify the resources required to implement the plan;
- (3) define the desired outcomes of the plan;
- (4) quantify current and planned investments in cloud applications and infrastructure;

(5) include:

- (A) legacy system modernization or replacement;
- (B) modernization achievements and capabilities offered through the Department of Information resources data center services program;
- (C) an evaluation of the fully integrated commercial applications service options available to the agency to meet modernization needs;
- (D) a description of plans to integrate cloud application and infrastructure services into the overall architecture of the agency;
- (E) an analysis of the technical and data architecture necessary for the agency to provide enhanced data analytics, reporting, and performance management; and
- (F) identify efforts to improve the citizen interaction, process efficiencies, and agency operations through modernization; and

(5) describe the agency's approach to creating an automated, interoperable, agencywide data analytics and performance management system that transforms data into meaningful information to support data-driven decision making, quality improvement initiatives, efficient service delivery, and effective regulation and oversight of programs administered by the agency.

(c) Each state agency shall coordinate with the Department of Information Resources to implement this section.

(d) Each agency shall submit the plan, as well as annual updates outlining the progress being made and any challenges being faced or requests for help being made by the teams responsible for implementing the plan, to the:

- (1) governor;
- (2) lieutenant governor;
- (3) speaker of the house of representatives;
- (4) Department of Information Resources;
- (5) Sunset Advisory Commission; and

(6) standing committees of the senate and house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over state agency information technology.

(e) The State Strategic Plan (SSP) for Information Resources Management being developed by the Department of Information Resources (DIR) for 2022-2026, and every period going forward, must account for the work necessary to successfully achieve the objectives of the plans submitted pursuant to this section and to ensure continuous modernization takes place going forward.

(f) The Texas Cybersecurity Strategic Plan (CSP) that was developed by the Office of the Chief Information Security Officer within DIR for Fiscal Years 2018-2023, and every period

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going forward, must be updated to account for the work necessary to successfully secure the infrastructure that will ultimately result from the work being performed in furtherance of the plans submitted pursuant to this section and to ensure all IT modernization efforts going forward remain secure.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.