

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1191

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF A CERTAIN APPLICATION, SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMS ON STATE GOVERNMENT DEVICES AND REQUIRING MINIMUM SECURITY STANDARDS AND ANNUAL AUDITS OF SUCH

Title: DEVICES.

Vote Date: 3/24/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/10/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to prohibit the download or use of the application TikTok, or other programs, software or devices determined to be a cyber security threat from state government devices. This bill also would require the development of minimum-security standards to apply across state government and to require annual audits of such devices to ensure they comply with such minimum-security standards, in the interest of protecting privileged state information.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Stephanie Thomas, Secretary of state, Office of the Secretary of State: Secretary of State Thomas notes how this bill seeks to prohibit the download of Tik Tok on state devices and institute minimum security standards statewide. The Secretary then notes how her office opposes this legislation, as it would hinder critical functions of their office. The Secretary notes this is because her office runs multiple information campaigns on all media platforms and removing this option would only hinder her office's ability to inform young voters who are unaware of the process.

Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader, Connecticut General Assembly: Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, begins his testimony noting how the FBI has repeatedly pointed out the potential threat of his application and how poses a great deal of danger to government entities. Sen. Duff then further notes how a Bi-Partisan bill is currently being heard in the House Of Representatives to give the president the power to ban tik tok in the United States.

Sen. Duff then concludes his Testimony noting how this bill does not target a single entity and is strictly in place to protect precious information that the state possess and offers SB-1191 a favorable report.

Mark Raymond, Chief Information Officer-BITS-DAS: Mr. Raymond, begins his testimony by noting the importance of protecting state systems and also states how this is an "Ever changing Landscape". After noting these elements, Mr. Raymond states how he believes that this bill duplicates already existing statues currently in place, in order to provide adequate security standards across the state. Mr. Raymond then provides a list of cybersecurity initiatives and programs which are currently in place, and then thanks members of the committee for raising this issue.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous, Concerned Citizen: Anonymous Concerned Citizen opposes all bills.

Reported by: Thomas Togneri

Date: 03-24-2023