Date of Hearing: May 18, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Chris Holden, Chair
AB 2695 (Berman) – As Amended April 4, 2022

Policy Committee: Higher Education   Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No   State Mandated Local Program: No   Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes the Cybersecurity Regional Alliances and Multistakeholder Partnerships Pilot Program (Pilot Program) to address the cybersecurity workforce gap, as specified, and requires the office of the chancellor of the California State University (CSU) to select any number of CSU campuses to participate in the pilot program through an application process developed by the chancellor's office on or before March 1, 2023. This bill specifies that the purpose of the Pilot Program is to do the following:

1) Stimulate cybersecurity education and workforce development by bringing together stakeholders in the cybersecurity ecosystem.

2) Align the cybersecurity workforce needs of employers with the education and training provided by institutions of higher education.

3) Increase the pipeline of students pursuing cybersecurity careers.

4) Develop the cybersecurity workforce to meet industry needs within local or regional economies.

FISCAL EFFECT:

1) Unknown, potentially significant one-time General Fund cost to CSU to develop an application and selection process and criteria for CSU campuses seeking to participate in the Pilot Program.

2) Minor, absorbable ongoing General Fund costs to CSU to make annual reports to the Legislature on the impact of each campus's efforts.

COMMENTS:

Need for this Bill. According to the California Cybersecurity Workforce Development and Education Strategy September 2020 report:

Global demand for cybersecurity and information security professionals and personnel has been mounting for decades and reaching a critical point. It is imperative in this modern and information-rich era to have a strong cadre of qualified and prepared cybersecurity specialists and specialized

workforce (from technicians through managers) flowing into the labor pool. Based on the reliance of technology in today's digital environment, we need coordinated and linked education, training, and workforce development programs to increase statewide cybersecurity capabilities and enhance cyber-resiliency.

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