Key Takeaways:

1. Texas has the opportunity to invest in cybersecurity and information technology modernization efforts using one-time budget surplus funds and general revenue. Reforms passed last session (HB 4018, 87-R) provide a long-term pathway to improving state IT.

2. During the 87th regular legislative session the Legislature made a down payment on the state's IT needs by funding a majority of requested IT projects for the 2022-23 biennium. This included $893.4 million in supplemental appropriations for cybersecurity, legacy system modernization, and other priority IT projects. These funds primarily went to 27 state agencies that identified 59 priority IT-related projects. The funding request for these projects was 86 percent larger than in the previous biennium, which shows it's becoming more expensive just to maintain the status quo in IT.

Bills To Monitor:

- HB 584/SB 635 (Capriglione/Eckhardt) and SB 1201 (Zaffirini) – state information technology workforce credentials.
- HB 712/SB 271 (Shaheen/Johnson) – broader cyberattack reporting for state and local entities.
- HB 2156/SB 621 (Capriglione/Parker) – hiring a Chief Information Security Officer at the Department of Information Resources (DIR).
- SB 498 (Johnson) – flexibility for expanded statewide technology centers utilization.
- HB 2060 (Capriglione) – creating artificial intelligence advisory council.
- HB 984/SB 782 (Capriglione/Birdwell) – establishing a state Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) at DIR.