



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development and Nominations

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2018

Media Contact: Justin Concepcion
Office: 713-665-8322
Justin.Concepcion@senate.texas.gov

Senator Borris L. Miles Calls on Secretary of State to Implement Initiatives to Protect Elections

Senator Borris L. Miles today called on the Texas Secretary of State to immediately implement a number of cyber-security initiatives from Senate Bill 99, from the 85th Legislature Special Session, to protect voters in the wake of recent revelations regarding the cyber threat to Texas elections.

"This week, US Intelligence officials announced that seven state election systems were compromised in 2016 by Russian hackers, including Texas. Cyber-security is a real threat, and we need act to combat these threats now. I am calling on the Texas Secretary of State to implement, wherever possible, critical initiatives from SB 99 from the 85th Legislative Special Session to strengthen the security of our elections and vital election data."

"First and foremost, the Secretary of State must complete its threat assessment and issue recommendations to the Legislature and election officials before the November general election. Advancing the report's completion will strengthen state voting systems, assure Texans that their votes are secure and will be accurately counted, and send the message that we will not tolerate outside interference."

While SB 99 did not pass during the special session, many of its provisions, in particular advancing the due date of the report required under House Bill 8 (85th, Regular) from December 1, 2018 to September 1, 2018, should not explicitly require legislation to implement.

"This initiative is necessary due to the confirmed cyber-security election threat from Russian hackers in Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Texas and Wisconsin. Implementing these common-sense initiatives would help local election officials, who are working hard to counter this threat. This is especially important in Harris County, the largest county in Texas where one-in-seven registered voters in Texas reside."

###

Senator Borris L. Miles is serving his first term in the Texas Senate. He serves on the following committees: Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development and Nominations. After the 85th Legislative and Special Sessions, he was appointed to the Senate Select Committees on Cybersecurity and Election Security.

Capitol Office
3.S3
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711
512-463-0113

Central Houston Office
5302 Almeda, Suite A
Houston, TX 77004
713-665-8322

Fort Bend Office
2440 Texas Pkwy, Suite 110
Missouri City, TX 77489
281-261-2360

Northeast Office
3300 Lyons Ave. Suite 301
Houston, TX 77020
713-223-0387