

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5215

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to develop a training program that teaches members of the Armed Forces to interact with digital information in a safe and responsible manner, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

Ms. STEVENS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to develop a training program that teaches members of the Armed Forces to interact with digital information in a safe and responsible manner, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “The Strategic Home-  
5 land Information Education and Learning Defense Act of  
6 2025” or the “SHIELD Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM FOR DIGITAL INFORMATION**  
2 **TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
3 **FORCES.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 120 days after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
6 Defense shall establish a pilot program (in this section re-  
7 ferred to as the “pilot program”) to develop a training  
8 program that teaches members of the Armed Forces to  
9 interact with digital information in a safe and responsible  
10 manner.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program,  
12 the Secretary shall—

13 (1) develop and carry out a curriculum that in-  
14 cludes instruction on—

15 (A) how to identify—

16 (i) fact-based journalism;

17 (ii) opinion-based journalism;

18 (iii) disinformation;

19 (iv) conspiracy theories; and

20 (v) hate-based ideologies, including  
21 antisemitism and white supremacy;

22 (B) how to assess the credibility of digital  
23 news and other digital sources of information;

24 (C) the effects of online actions on the  
25 actor and others, including the effects of post-

1           ing or sharing personal, incorrect, or bias-based  
2           information;

3           (D) the importance of protecting personal  
4           information and how to protect personal infor-  
5           mation with respect to online activities;

6           (E) how to recognize and avoid common  
7           information-based threats that could harm—

8           (i) an individual targeted by such  
9           threats;

10           (ii) the property of the individual; or

11           (iii) the security, property, or goals of  
12           the Department of Defense when the indi-  
13           vidual is a member of the Armed Forces;  
14           and

15           (F) in the case that the individual is a  
16           member of the Armed Forces, methodologies—

17           (i) that the individual can use when  
18           locating, evaluating, and using digital in-  
19           formation; and

20           (ii) which are designed reduce insider  
21           threats to, and vulnerabilities of, the  
22           Armed Forces with respect to conspiracy  
23           theories and hate-based ideology;

24           (2) select as participants a geographically and  
25           demographically diverse sample of members of the

1 Armed Forces in such number as is necessary to col-  
2 lect meaningful feedback about the training pro-  
3 gram; and

4 (3) use in-person, virtual, and hybrid training  
5 delivery methods in equal amounts.

6 (c) TERMINATION.—The authority of Secretary to  
7 carry out the pilot program shall terminate on the date  
8 that is one year after the date on which the pilot program  
9 begins.

10 (d) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the pilot pro-  
11 gram, the Secretary may consult with organizations that  
12 specialize in teaching or providing information to individ-  
13 uals about interacting with digital information in a safe  
14 and responsible manner.

15 (e) SURVEY.—After the date on which the pilot pro-  
16 gram terminates pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary  
17 shall survey participants and instructors to identify—

18 (1) ways to improve the training program and  
19 curriculum;

20 (2) ways to improve participant engagement  
21 during the training program; and

22 (3) the extent to which participants retained,  
23 over time, the information taught during the train-  
24 ing program.

1 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the ter-  
2 mination of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit  
3 to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and  
4 the House of Representatives a report summarizing the  
5 results of the pilot program, including—

6 (1) a comparison of the in-person, virtual, and  
7 hybrid training delivery methods, considering—

8 (A) the engagement of participants during  
9 the training program;

10 (B) the extent to which participants re-  
11 tained, over time, the information taught dur-  
12 ing the training program; and

13 (C) other notable differences, as deter-  
14 mined by the Secretary;

15 (2) a determination, based on such comparison,  
16 about which training delivery method is most effec-  
17 tive for teaching the curriculum developed under  
18 subsection (b)(1);

19 (3) a recommendation about how often a mem-  
20 ber of the Armed Forces should be required to at-  
21 tend a permanent training program about inter-  
22 acting with digital information in a safe and respon-  
23 sible manner, if established, considering the extent  
24 to which participants of the pilot program retained  
25 information taught during the training program; and

- 1           (4) a recommendation about how often the cur-
- 2           riculum of any such permanent training program
- 3           should be updated.

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