

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6631

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a program for the development of cybersecurity education at academic institutions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2025

Ms. ELFRETH (for herself and Mr. LUTTRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish a program for the development of cybersecurity education at academic institutions, 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 “Establishing Cyber Se-
5 curity Educational Programs at Academic Institutions
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COLLABORATIVE CYBERSECURITY EDUCATIONAL**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense
4 shall establish and carry out a program under which the
5 Secretary shall seek to collaborate with academic institu-
6 tions to develop cybersecurity educational programs at
7 such institutions, including by establishing curriculum
8 standards, developing competencies in cybersecurity at
9 such institutions, promoting community outreach regard-
10 ing participation in such educational programs, inte-
11 grating best practices across such educational programs,
12 and advancing solutions to challenges in addressing edu-
13 cational needs with respect to cyber.

14 (b) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying
15 out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary of
16 Defense shall—

17 (1) consult with the Director of the National
18 Security Agency, the Director of the Cybersecurity
19 and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Depart-
20 ment of Homeland Security, the Director of the Na-
21 tional Institute of Standards and Technology, the
22 Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and
23 the Director of the National Science Foundation, to
24 ensure that the cyber education programs and edu-
25 cational resource development efforts and programs

1 of the Federal Government do not compete or con-
2 flict with each other;

3 (2) consult with the heads of other appropriate
4 Federal agencies and representatives of appropriate
5 private sector entities, academic institutions, and
6 other organizations as determined necessary by the
7 Secretary; and

8 (3) manage instructional and participatory op-
9 portunities available through the efforts, programs,
10 initiatives, and investments accounted for in the re-
11 port required under section 1649 of the National
12 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020
13 (Public Law 116–92; 133 Stat. 1758).

14 (c) DESIGNATIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program
16 under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall
17 designate academic institutions that meet the stand-
18 ards established under such program in one or more
19 of cyber defense, cyber operations, and cyber re-
20 search.

21 (2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary of Defense shall
22 make the designations under paragraph (1) based on
23 the following:

24 (A) Academic requirements and best prac-
25 tices identified by the Secretary of Defense in

1 consultation with Departments and Agencies
2 enabling the development of educational pro-
3 grams reflecting the full range of cyber work
4 roles specified in the Defense Cyber Workforce
5 Framework, the National Initiative on Cyber
6 Education Workforce Framework for Cyber
7 published by the National Institute of Stand-
8 ards and Technology in NIST Special Publica-
9 tion 800–181, Revision 5, or any successor
10 framework.

11 (B) Criteria and requirements for the aca-
12 demic institution emphasizing the following:

13 (i) Outreach to the surrounding com-
14 munity of the academic institution.

15 (ii) Leadership in contributing to the
16 development of a national cyber workforce,
17 including cultivating educational institution
18 faculty and research leaders.

19 (iii) Leadership in the development of
20 educational and performance expectations
21 for cyber professionals, including through
22 curriculum and degree offerings to prepare
23 future cyber professionals of all knowledge
24 and skill levels.

1 (iv) Demonstrated commitment to im-
2 plementing cyber best practices within the
3 academic institution across academic dis-
4 ciplines.

5 (v) Demonstrated commitment to
6 seeking solutions to challenges in address-
7 ing Federal, State, local, territorial, and
8 Tribal-level needs.

9 (vi) Regional accreditation from one
10 of the six regional accrediting agencies rec-
11 ognized by the Department of Education
12 providing external review to assure quality
13 and ongoing improvement.

14 (C) Increasing collaboration within the
15 cyber education community to support develop-
16 ment and sharing of educational materials and
17 curriculum.

18 (D) Increasing collaboration with private
19 sector entities and government employers at the
20 Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal lev-
21 els to further define workforce requirements
22 and assist in defining academic requirements to
23 prepare students for the field of cyber.

24 (d) METRICS AND REPORT.—

1 (1) METRICS.—The Secretary of Defense
2 shall—

3 (A) collaborate with the individuals de-
4 scribed in subsection (b)(1) to identify metrics
5 and annual data reporting requirements nec-
6 essary to assess the degree to which the pro-
7 gram established under subsection (a) is meet-
8 ing the objectives of such program; and

9 (B) ensure adequate data and best prac-
10 tices are made available to the individuals de-
11 scribed in subsection (b)(1) to measure the effi-
12 cacy of such program and the benefits provided
13 by such program to individuals participating in
14 such program and to the Department of De-
15 fense compared to costs of such program paid
16 by academic institutions participating in such
17 program and sponsors of such program.

18 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
20 nually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall sub-
21 mit to Congress a report on the benefits provided by
22 the program established under subsection (a) to in-
23 dividuals participating in such program and to the
24 Department compared to costs of such program paid

1 by academic institutions participating in such pro-
2 gram and sponsors of such program.

3 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion shall be construed to—

5 (1) supersede the statutory responsibilities or
6 authorities of any head of a departments or agencies
7 of the Federal Government; or

8 (2) authorize the appropriation of additional
9 amounts for the program established under sub-
10 section (a).

11 (f) ACADEMIC INSTITUTION DEFINED.—The term
12 “academic institution” means—

13 (1) an institution of higher education (as de-
14 fined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) in the United States that
16 conducts research sponsored by the Department of
17 Defense; or

18 (2) a senior military college (as defined in sec-
19 tion 2111a(f) of title 10, United States Code).

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