

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7885

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a pilot program to award competitive grants for the integration of cybersecurity education, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a pilot program to award competitive grants for the integration of cybersecurity education, 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 “Cybersecurity Skills  
5        Integration Act”.

6        **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7        The purpose of this Act is to improve the cybersecu-  
8        rity competencies of the critical infrastructure workforce,  
9        particularly operators of critical infrastructure technology,

1 by developing postsecondary career and technical edu-  
2 cation programs that integrate cybersecurity education.

3 **SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION GRANTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts made available  
5 to carry out this Act, the Secretary of Education shall,  
6 not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
7 Act, establish a pilot program under which the Secretary  
8 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible part-  
9 nerships for—

10 (1) the development and implementation of  
11 postsecondary career and technical education pro-  
12 grams that incorporate cybersecurity education and  
13 prepare individuals to meet workforce needs in crit-  
14 ical infrastructure sectors; and

15 (2) the integration of cybersecurity education  
16 into existing postsecondary career and technical edu-  
17 cation programs that prepare individuals to meet  
18 workforce needs in critical infrastructure sectors.

19 (b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—In award-  
20 ing grants under this Act, the Secretary shall consult with  
21 the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the National Insti-  
22 tute of Standards and Technology, and the Secretary of  
23 Homeland Security, to determine the greatest workforce  
24 needs in critical infrastructure sectors.

1 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of any grant  
2 made under this Act shall not exceed \$500,000 in any fis-  
3 cal year.

4 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
5 under this Act, an eligible partnership shall submit an ap-  
6 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,  
7 containing such information as the Secretary may reason-  
8 ably require, and including a description of—

9 (1) the roles and responsibilities of each partner  
10 in the eligible partnership, and each partner’s capac-  
11 ity to support the postsecondary career and technical  
12 education program to be developed and implemented  
13 with funds awarded under this Act, or the postsec-  
14 ondary career and technical education program into  
15 which cybersecurity education will be integrated with  
16 funds awarded under this Act;

17 (2) the critical infrastructure sector or sectors  
18 that such postsecondary career and technical edu-  
19 cation program prepares individuals to enter;

20 (3) the in-demand occupation within such sector  
21 or sectors that such postsecondary career and tech-  
22 nical education program prepares individuals to  
23 enter;

24 (4) the workforce needs of such critical infra-  
25 structure sector or sectors, including cybersecurity

1 workforce needs, and how the postsecondary career  
2 and technical education program will meet such  
3 workforce needs;

4 (5) how the eligible partnership will incorporate  
5 cybersecurity education aligned to the National Ini-  
6 tiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Cyberse-  
7 curity Workforce Framework developed by the Na-  
8 tional Institute of Standards and Technology of the  
9 Department of Commerce, or successor framework,  
10 into such postsecondary career and technical edu-  
11 cation program;

12 (6) the assessment, capstone project, or other  
13 means of demonstrating knowledge and cybersecuri-  
14 ty skills specific to the critical infrastructure sector  
15 or sectors that such postsecondary career and tech-  
16 nical education program prepares individuals to  
17 enter, and an assurance that such assessment,  
18 project, or other demonstration of knowledge and  
19 skills will be a requirement for program completion;

20 (7) the work-based learning opportunities the  
21 eligible partnership will offer;

22 (8) how such postsecondary career and tech-  
23 nical education program will lead to a recognized  
24 postsecondary credential and employment in the crit-  
25 ical infrastructure sector or sectors targeted by the

1 postsecondary career and technical education pro-  
2 gram;

3 (9) the process through which the cybersecurity  
4 education curriculum and educational materials de-  
5 veloped or integrated using such grant will be up-  
6 dated annually to include the most recent informa-  
7 tion on cybersecurity threats specific to such critical  
8 infrastructure sector or sectors;

9 (10) how such postsecondary career and tech-  
10 nical education program will be sustained following  
11 the grant period;

12 (11) how such postsecondary career and tech-  
13 nical education program will promote diversity with-  
14 in the cybersecurity workforce in critical infrastruc-  
15 ture sectors; and

16 (12) any other purpose for which the eligible  
17 partnership intends to use funds awarded under this  
18 Act.

19 (e) REGIONAL DIVERSITY.—When awarding grants  
20 under this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that grants are  
21 awarded to eligible partnerships in different regions.

22 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible part-  
23 nership that receives a grant under this Act shall annually  
24 submit a report to the Secretary that includes—

1           (1) a description of how any funds awarded to  
2 the eligible partnership under this Act have been  
3 used during the period covered by the report;

4           (2) the number of students who have received  
5 a recognized postsecondary credential during such  
6 period from the postsecondary career and technical  
7 education program into which cybersecurity edu-  
8 cation was incorporated using such funds,  
9 disaggregated by the subgroups of students de-  
10 scribed in section 1111(c)(2)(B) of the Elementary  
11 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
12 6311(c)(2)(B)) and by each special population;

13           (3) a description of any updates made during  
14 the preceding year to the cybersecurity education  
15 curriculum and educational materials of such post-  
16 secondary career and technical education program in  
17 accordance with the requirements of subsection  
18 (d)(9); and

19           (4) the percentage of participants in unsub-  
20 sidized employment in an in-demand occupation in a  
21 critical infrastructure sector targeted by the postsec-  
22 ondary career and technical education program after  
23 exiting the postsecondary career and technical edu-  
24 cation program.

1 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
3 out this Act \$10,000,000.

4 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

5 (1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term  
6 “critical infrastructure” has the meaning given the  
7 term in section 1016(e) of the USA PATRIOT Act  
8 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

9 (2) CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION.—The term  
10 “cybersecurity education” shall mean education on  
11 critical infrastructure cyber defense, including—

12 (A) ensuring the confidentiality, integrity,  
13 and availability of information systems used in  
14 critical infrastructure, including control systems  
15 and operational technology;

16 (B) developing engineering skills applicable  
17 to industrial control systems and operational  
18 technologies used in critical infrastructure sys-  
19 tems; and

20 (C) training to ensure the continuous phys-  
21 ical and environmental safety of the operations  
22 of critical infrastructure systems.

23 (3) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—

1 (A) REQUIRED PARTNERS.—The term “eli-  
2 gible partnership” means a partnership that in-  
3 cludes—

4 (i) a postsecondary educational insti-  
5 tution; and

6 (ii) 2 or more public or private em-  
7 ployers, in a critical infrastructure sector,  
8 with demonstrated cybersecurity workforce  
9 needs, that is located in the region where  
10 the postsecondary career and technical  
11 education program will be developed and  
12 implemented with a grant awarded under  
13 this Act.

14 (B) OPTIONAL PARTNERS.—The partner-  
15 ship may also include one or more—

16 (i) community stakeholders (such as  
17 local governments, nonprofit institutions,  
18 economic development organizations, plan-  
19 ning agencies, labor organizations, or in-  
20 dustry associations);

21 (ii) local educational agencies (as the  
22 term is defined in section 8101 of the Ele-  
23 mentary and Secondary Education Act of  
24 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)); and

1 (iii) eligible agencies that are located  
2 in the region where the postsecondary ca-  
3 reer and technical education program will  
4 be developed and implemented with funds  
5 awarded under this Act.

6 (4) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term “eligible  
7 agency” means a State board designated or created  
8 consistent with State law as the sole State agency  
9 responsible for the administration of career and  
10 technical education in the State or for the super-  
11 vision of the administration of career and technical  
12 education in the State.

13 (5) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPA-  
14 TION.—The term “in-demand industry sector or oc-  
15 cupation” has the meaning given the term in section  
16 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
17 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

18 (6) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-  
19 TION.—The term “postsecondary educational institu-  
20 tion” means—

21 (A) an institution of higher education (de-  
22 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
23 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that provides  
24 not less than a 2-year program of instruction

1 that is acceptable for credit toward an associ-  
2 ate's or bachelor's degree;

3 (B) a tribally controlled college or univer-  
4 sity (defined in section 2(a)(4) of the Tribally  
5 Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance  
6 Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801(a)(4))); or

7 (C) a nonprofit educational institution of-  
8 fering certificate or other skilled training pro-  
9 grams at the postsecondary level.

10 (7) POSTSECONDARY CAREER AND TECHNICAL  
11 EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term “postsecondary  
12 career and technical education program” means a  
13 coordinated, nonduplicative sequence of academic  
14 and technical content at the postsecondary level  
15 that—

16 (A) addresses both academic and technical  
17 knowledge and skills, including employability  
18 skills;

19 (B) is aligned with the needs of industries  
20 in the economy of the State, region, Tribal com-  
21 munity, or local area;

22 (C) progresses in specificity (beginning  
23 with all aspects of an industry or career cluster  
24 and leading to more occupation-specific instruc-  
25 tion);

1 (D) has multiple entry and exit points that  
2 incorporate credentialing; and

3 (E) culminates in the attainment of a rec-  
4 ognized postsecondary credential.

5 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
6 the Secretary of Education.

7 (9) WORK BASED LEARNING.—The term “work  
8 based learning” means sustained interactions with  
9 industry or community professionals in real work-  
10 place settings, to the extent practicable, or simulated  
11 environments at an educational institution that fos-  
12 ter in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks  
13 required in a given career field, that are aligned to  
14 curriculum and instruction.

15 (10) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-  
16 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-  
17 tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of  
18 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
19 U.S.C. 3102).

20 (11) SPECIAL POPULATIONS.—The term “spe-  
21 cial populations” means—

22 (A) individuals with disabilities;

23 (B) individuals from economically dis-  
24 advantaged families, including low-income youth  
25 and adults;

1 (C) individuals preparing for non-tradi-  
2 tional fields;

3 (D) single parents, including single preg-  
4 nant women;

5 (E) out-of-workforce individuals;

6 (F) English learners;

7 (G) homeless individuals described in sec-  
8 tion 11434a of title 42, United States Code;

9 (H) youth who are in, or have aged out of,  
10 the foster care system; and

11 (I) youth with a parent who—

12 (i) is a member of the Armed Forces  
13 (as such term is defined in section  
14 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code);  
15 and

16 (ii) is on active duty (as such term is  
17 defined in section 101(d)(1) of such title).

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