

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9550

To establish a United States-Ukraine Strategic Defense Innovation Working Group, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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 establish a United States-Ukraine Strategic Defense Innovation Working Group, 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 “Strategic Unmanned
5 Systems Partnership Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this section:

1 (1) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.—

2 The term “congressional defense committees” has
3 the meaning give such term in section 101(a) of title
4 10, United States Code.

5 (2) COVERED SYSTEM.—The term “covered sys-
6 tem” means—

7 (A) an unmanned system that—

8 (i) is designed for a limited number of
9 missions;

10 (ii) is expendable in high-threat envi-
11 ronments; and

12 (iii) is characterized by a low per-unit
13 cost, relative to the value of the targets the
14 unmanned system is designed to engage;
15 and

16 (B) includes—

17 (i) the enabling software and hard-
18 ware of such an unmanned system;

19 (ii) unmanned aerial vehicles, un-
20 manned underwater vehicles, and un-
21 manned surface vehicles;

22 (iii) capabilities to counter unmanned
23 systems, including early warning systems,
24 jamming systems, and interceptors; and

1 (iv) command and control architec-
2 ture, including software and hardware, to
3 enable the integrated, secure, and resilient
4 operation of unmanned systems and capa-
5 bilities to counter unmanned systems.

6 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of Defense.

8 (4) WORKING GROUP.—The term “Working
9 Group” means the Strategic Defense Innovation
10 Working Group established under section 3.

11 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC DEFENSE INNOVA-**
12 **TION WORKING GROUP.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
15 coordination with the Secretary of State, shall seek to en-
16 gage with relevant stakeholders in Ukraine to establish a
17 Strategic Defense Innovation Working Group to explore—

18 (1) pathways for the co-development, co-produce-
19 tion, acquisition, and transfer of covered systems;
20 and

21 (2) the development of related mutual tech-
22 nology transfer frameworks.

23 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be co-
24 chaired by the following:

25 (1) The Under Secretary of Defense.

1 (2) The Director of the Defense Innovation
2 Unit.

3 (3) The Director of the Joint Interagency Task
4 Force 401.

5 (4) The Under Secretary of Defense for Acqui-
6 sition and Sustainment.

7 (5) The Commander of the Joint Special Oper-
8 ations Command.

9 (c) OTHER PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary shall seek
10 the participation in the Working Group of representatives
11 of the following:

12 (1) The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

13 (2) The military forces of Ukraine.

14 (3) The Brave1 Defense Tech Cluster.

15 (4) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization-
16 Ukraine Joint Analysis, Training, and Education
17 Center.

18 **SEC. 4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Working
20 Group shall be responsible for engaging with the other
21 participants in the Working Group—

22 (1) to systematically analyze and apply lessons
23 learned from the methodologies employed by the
24 military forces of Ukraine and the domestic defense

1 industrial base of Ukraine to accelerate the develop-
2 ment, production, and fielding of covered systems;

3 (2) to identify the Ukraine-designed covered
4 systems that—

5 (A) have demonstrated high operational
6 utility in active combat; and

7 (B) offer strategic capability enhancements
8 for the United States Armed Forces;

9 (3) to provide recommendations to expand and
10 improve incorporation of Ukraine-designed covered
11 systems in Blue UAS programs;

12 (4) to develop defense trade foundational agree-
13 ments between the United States and Ukraine, in-
14 cluding—

15 (A) a mutual technology transfer frame-
16 work, which shall include—

17 (i) mutual data exchange protocols to
18 facilitate the secure sharing of relevant
19 battlefield and military information, such
20 as telemetry data and other electronic war-
21 fare signal profiles; and

22 (ii) joint intellectual property owner-
23 ship frameworks that—

1 (I) protect the background intel-
2 lectual property of all participants;
3 and

4 (II) facilitate the co-development
5 and co-production of Ukraine-de-
6 signed covered systems; and

7 (B) a memorandum of understanding on
8 reciprocal defense procurement; and

9 (5) to assess the feasibility of testing United
10 States-manufactured covered systems in Ukraine, in-
11 cluding by deploying United States-manufactured
12 covered systems to operational units of Ukraine for
13 evaluation in active combat scenarios.

14 (b) MEETINGS.—The Working Group shall convene
15 not less frequently than once every 120 days, with meeting
16 frequency determined by the co-chairs, in consultation
17 with the other participants in the Working Groups.

18 **SEC. 5. PRIORITIZATION OF UKRAINE-DESIGNED COVERED**
19 **SYSTEMS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Working
21 Group shall prioritize the Ukraine-designed covered sys-
22 tems identified under section 4(a)(2) for co-development,
23 co-production, and acquisition, including by—

1 (1) analyzing the extent to which Ukraine-de-
2 signed covered systems meet existing statutory re-
3 quirements with respect to fielding;

4 (2) identifying authorities that may be used to
5 accelerate the establishment and approval of joint
6 ventures, cooperative production agreements, or li-
7 censed production agreements involving the Depart-
8 ment of Defense and the military forces of Ukraine;

9 (3) identifying authorities that may be used to
10 accelerate traditional procurement pathways for
11 Ukraine-designed covered systems;

12 (4) conducting a detailed supply chain assess-
13 ment of the components and inputs that would be
14 used in the co-production of Ukraine-designed cov-
15 ered systems;

16 (5) identifying the costs associated with co-de-
17 veloping and co-producing Ukraine-designed covered
18 systems in the United States; and

19 (6) identifying the steps necessary in order to
20 produce Ukraine-designed covered systems at scale
21 in the United States, including a description of op-
22 portunities to leverage civilian manufacturing exper-
23 tise and infrastructure to address production bottle-
24 necks.

1 (b) REMEDIATION PATHWAY.—With respect to
2 Ukraine-designed covered systems identified under section
3 4(a)(2) that do not meet existing statutory requirements
4 with respect to fielding, the Working Group shall explore
5 alternative pathways for the fielding of such covered sys-
6 tems, including through—

- 7 (1) SkyFoundry;
8 (2) the UAS Marketplace; and
9 (3) Drone Dominance.

10 **SEC. 6. REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS.**

11 (a) INITIAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN.—Not
12 later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of
13 this Act, the Working Group shall provide the congres-
14 sional defense committees with a briefing on the initial
15 strategy for the co-development, co-production, and acqui-
16 sition of Ukraine-designed covered systems.

17 (b) SEMIANNUAL UPDATES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
19 after the date on which the briefing required by sub-
20 section (a) is provided, and every 180 days there-
21 after until the date on which the Working Group
22 terminates, the Working Group shall submit to the
23 congressional defense committees a report on the
24 progress of the Working Group.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, include, for the preceding 180-day period, the following:

(A) A list of Ukraine-designed covered systems identified for prioritization, including the current status of such covered systems with respect to technical and legal evaluation, certification, and integration with existing United States force posture and operational needs.

(B) A detailed list of specific fast-track acquisition or waiver authorities that may be used to accelerate the co-development, co-production, or acquisition of Ukraine-designed covered systems.

(C) A supply chain analysis of the sourcing of inputs and component parts to eliminate dependence on countries of concern, such as the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(D) A comprehensive framework to facilitate the transition of prioritized Ukraine-designed covered systems from identification to co-development and co-production at scale, in-

cluding an assessment of the feasibility of using
of the following for such purpose:

(i) Joint ventures.

(ii) Cooperative production agreements.

(iii) Licensed production agreements.

(E) A detailed description of intellectual property ownership frameworks that could be used to facilitate the co-development and co-production of prioritized Ukraine-designed covered systems.

(F) A description of specific regulatory, legal, or policy barriers that hinder the establishment of joint ventures, cooperative production agreements, or licensed production agreements.

(G) A description of regulatory, export-control, and certification barriers that impede the acquisition of Ukraine-designed covered systems.

(3) FORM.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in an unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

1 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the
3 Working Group shall terminate on the date that is five
4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

5 (b) ONE-YEAR EXTENSION.—The Working Group
6 may continue in effect until the date that is six year after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act if the Secretary—

8 (1) determines that a one-year extension is vital
9 to national security; and

10 (2) submits to the congressional defense com-
11 mittees a written justification for such an extension.

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