

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1705

To require the Secretary of Commerce to issue standards with respect to chip security mechanisms for integrated circuit products, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2025

Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Commerce to issue standards with respect to chip security mechanisms for integrated circuit products, 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 “Chip Security Act”.

5       **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6       It is the sense of Congress that—

7               (1) technology developed in the United States  
8       should serve as the foundation for the global eco-  
9       system of artificial intelligence to advance the for-

1        eign policy and national security objectives of the  
2        United States and allies and partners of the United  
3        States;

4            (2) the United States can foster goodwill,  
5        strengthen relationships, and support innovative re-  
6        search around the world by providing allies and  
7        partners of the United States with advanced com-  
8        puting capabilities;

9            (3) advanced integrated circuits and computing  
10       hardware that is exported from the United States  
11       must be protected from diversion, theft, and other  
12       unauthorized use or exploitation in order to bolster  
13       the competitiveness of the United States and protect  
14       the national security of the United States;

15           (4) implementing chip security mechanisms will  
16       improve compliance with the export control laws of  
17       the United States, assist allies and partners with  
18       guarding computing hardware, and enhance protec-  
19       tions from bad actors looking to access, divert, or  
20       tamper with advanced integrated circuits and com-  
21       puting hardware; and

22           (5) implementing chip security mechanisms may  
23       help with the detection of smuggling or exploitation  
24       of advanced integrated circuits and computing hard-  
25       ware, thereby allowing for increased flexibility in ex-

1 port controls and opening the door for more inter-  
2 national partners to receive streamlined and larger  
3 shipments of advanced computing hardware.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
7 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
8 mittees” means—

9 (A) the Committee on Banking, Housing,  
10 and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

11 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
12 the House of Representatives.

13 (2) CHIP SECURITY MECHANISM.—The term  
14 “chip security mechanism” means a software-,  
15 firmware-, or hardware-enabled security mechanism  
16 or a physical security mechanism.

17 (3) COVERED INTEGRATED CIRCUIT PROD-  
18 UCT.—The term “covered integrated circuit prod-  
19 uct” means—

20 (A) an integrated circuit classified under  
21 Export Control Classification Number 3A090 or  
22 3A001.z;

23 (B) a computer or other product classified  
24 under Export Control Classification Number  
25 4A090 or 4A003.z; or

1 (C) an integrated circuit or computer or a  
 2 product containing an integrated circuit or com-  
 3 puter that is classified under an Export Control  
 4 Classification Number that is a successor or  
 5 substantially similar to the numbers listed in  
 6 subparagraphs (A) and (B).

7 (4) EXPORT.—The term “export” has the  
 8 meaning given that term in section 1742(3) of the  
 9 Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.  
 10 4801(3)).

11 (5) IN-COUNTRY TRANSFER.—The term “in-  
 12 country transfer” has the meaning given that term  
 13 in section 1742(6) of the Export Control Reform Act  
 14 of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801(6)).

15 (6) REEXPORT.—The term “reexport” has the  
 16 meaning given that term in section 1742(9) of the  
 17 Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.  
 18 4801(9)).

19 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
 20 the Secretary of Commerce.

21 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR SECURITY MECHANISMS FOR**  
 22 **EXPORT OF INTEGRATED CIRCUIT PROD-**  
 23 **UCTS.**

24 (a) PRIMARY REQUIREMENTS FOR CHIP SECURITY  
 25 MECHANISMS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
2           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3           retary shall require any covered integrated circuit  
4           product to be outfitted with chip security mecha-  
5           nisms that implement location verification, using  
6           techniques that are feasible and appropriate on such  
7           date of enactment, before it is exported, reexported,  
8           or in-country transferred to or in a foreign country.

9           (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Not later  
10          than 180 days after the date of the enactment of  
11          this Act, the Secretary shall require any person that  
12          has received a license or other authorization under  
13          the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.  
14          4811 et seq.) to export, reexport, or in-country  
15          transfer a covered integrated circuit product to  
16          promptly report to the Under Secretary of Industry  
17          and Security, if the person obtains credible informa-  
18          tion that the product—

19                (A) is in a location other than the location  
20                specified in the application for the license or  
21                other authorization;

22                (B) has been diverted to a user other than  
23                the user specified in the application; or

24                (C) has been subjected to tampering or an  
25                attempt at tampering, including efforts to dis-

1           able, spoof, manipulate, mislead or circumvent  
2           location verification mechanisms or other chip  
3           security mechanisms.

4           (b) DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY REQUIREMENTS  
5 FOR CHIP SECURITY MECHANISMS.—

6           (1) ASSESSMENT.—

7           (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
8           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
9           Secretary shall, in coordination with the Sec-  
10          retary of Defense—

11               (i) conduct an assessment to identify  
12               what additional mechanisms, if any, should  
13               be added to the primary chip security  
14               mechanisms required under subsection  
15               (a)(1)—

16                       (I) to enhance compliance with  
17                       the requirements of the Export Con-  
18                       trol Reform Act of 2018;

19                       (II) to prevent, hinder, and de-  
20                       tect the unauthorized use, access, or  
21                       exploitation of covered integrated cir-  
22                       cuit products;

23                       (III) to identify and monitor  
24                       smuggling intermediaries; and

1 (IV) to achieve any national secu-  
2 rity or foreign policy objective of the  
3 United States that the Secretary con-  
4 siders appropriate; and

5 (ii) if the Secretary identifies any  
6 such mechanism, develop requirements for  
7 outfitting covered integrated circuit prod-  
8 ucts with that mechanism.

9 (B) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required  
10 by paragraph (1) shall include—

11 (i) an examination of the feasibility,  
12 reliability, and effectiveness of—

13 (I) methods and strategies that  
14 prevent the tampering, disabling, or  
15 other manipulating of covered inte-  
16 grated circuit products;

17 (II) workload verification meth-  
18 ods;

19 (III) methods to modify the  
20 functionality of covered integrated cir-  
21 cuit products that have been illicitly  
22 acquired; and

23 (IV) any other method the Sec-  
24 retary determines appropriate for the  
25 prevention of unauthorized use, ac-

cess, or exploitation of covered integrated circuit products;

(ii) an analysis of—

(I) the potential costs associated with implementing each method examined under clause (i), including an analysis of—

(aa) the potential impact of the method on the performance of covered integrated circuit products; and

(bb) the potential for the introduction of new vulnerabilities into the products;

(II) the potential benefits of implementing the methods examined under clause (i), including an analysis of the potential increase—

(aa) in compliance of covered integrated circuit products with the requirements of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018; and

(bb) in detecting, hindering, and preventing unauthorized use,

1 access, or exploitation of the  
2 products; and

3 (III) the susceptibility of the  
4 methods examined under clause (i) to  
5 tampering, disabling, or other forms  
6 of manipulation; and

7 (iii) an estimate of the expected costs  
8 to implement at-scale methods to tamper  
9 with, disable, or manipulate a covered inte-  
10 grated circuit product, or otherwise cir-  
11 cumvent the methods examined under  
12 clause (i).

13 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
16 Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of  
17 Defense, shall submit to the appropriate con-  
18 gressional committees a report on the results of  
19 the assessment required by paragraph (1), in-  
20 cluding—

21 (i) an identification of the chip secu-  
22 rity mechanisms, if any, to be included in  
23 the requirements for secondary chip secu-  
24 rity mechanisms; and

1 (ii) if applicable, a roadmap for the  
2 timely implementation of the secondary  
3 chip security mechanisms.

4 (B) FORM.—The report required by para-  
5 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified  
6 form, but may include a classified annex.

7 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—If any mechanisms are  
9 determined by the Secretary to be appropriate,  
10 the Secretary shall, not later than 2 years after  
11 the date on which the Secretary completes the  
12 assessment required by paragraph (1), require  
13 any covered integrated circuit product to be  
14 outfitted with the secondary chip security mech-  
15 anisms identified pursuant to paragraph (1)(A)  
16 before the product is exported, reexported, or  
17 in-country transferred to or in a foreign coun-  
18 try.

19 (B) PRIVACY.—In implementing require-  
20 ments for secondary chip security mechanisms  
21 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall  
22 prioritize confidentiality.

23 (c) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out  
24 this section, the Secretary may—

1           (1) verify, in a manner the Secretary deter-  
2           mines appropriate, the ownership and location of a  
3           covered integrated circuit product that has been ex-  
4           ported, reexported, or in-country transferred to or in  
5           a foreign country;

6           (2) maintain a record of covered integrated cir-  
7           cuit products and include in the record the location  
8           and current end-user of each such product; and

9           (3) require any person who has been granted a  
10          license or other authorization under the Export Con-  
11          trol Reform Act of 2018 to export, reexport, or in-  
12          country transfer a covered integrated circuit product  
13          to provide the information needed to maintain the  
14          record.

15          (d) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT AND REPORT ON NEW  
16          CHIP SECURITY MECHANISMS.—Not later than 2 years  
17          after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually  
18          thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall—

19               (1) in coordination with the Secretary of De-  
20               fense, conduct an assessment of new chip security  
21               mechanisms that have been developed in the year  
22               preceding the date of the assessment; and

23               (2) submit to the appropriate congressional  
24               committees a report that includes—

1 (A) a summary of the results of the assess-  
2 ment required by paragraph (1);

3 (B) an evaluation of whether any of the  
4 new mechanisms assessed under paragraph (1)  
5 should be added to or replace any of the exist-  
6 ing requirements for secondary chip security  
7 mechanisms developed under subsection (b)(1);  
8 and

9 (C) any recommendations for modifications  
10 to relevant export controls to allow for more  
11 flexibility with respect to the countries to or in  
12 which covered integrated circuit products may  
13 be exported, reexported, or in-country trans-  
14 ferred if the products include chip security  
15 mechanisms that meet the requirements devel-  
16 oped under subsection (b)(1).

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