

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7530

To direct the Attorney General to make grants to assist local educational agencies in developing and implementing plans to address cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2020

Mr. HARDER of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 direct the Attorney General to make grants to assist local educational agencies in developing and implementing plans to address cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities, 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 “Protecting Students
5 from Cybercrimes Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Educational institutions across the country
2 are becoming increasingly vulnerable to cyber at-
3 tacks with the switch to online instruction during
4 the COVID–19 pandemic.

5 (2) Cyber attacks put sensitive and confidential
6 information at risk of disclosure.

7 (3) Increased cyber attacks place sensitive stu-
8 dent information, such as student academic achieve-
9 ment records, grades, medical records, and other
10 personal identifiable information at risk.

11 (4) School districts are not sufficiently equipped
12 to prevent damaging cyber attacks. Increased fund-
13 ing and guidance from the Federal Government are
14 needed to adequately prepare for and defend against
15 potential cyber attacks.

16 (5) Increased Federal funding and guidance will
17 give school districts the ability to reduce their risk
18 and exposure to cyber attacks.

19 (6) Increased Federal funding to school dis-
20 tricts will enable school district residents to pursue
21 formal education, training, and industry recognized
22 certifications for careers in cybersecurity, which will
23 aid in the prevention and mitigation of the effects of
24 future attacks.

1 (7) Increased Federal funding and guidance will
2 allow school districts, campuses, and institutions of
3 higher education to share information and analysis
4 to prevent future cyber attacks.

5 **SEC. 3. SCHOOL CYBERCRIME PROTECTION GRANT PRO-**
6 **GRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, acting
8 through the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
9 tion (referred to in this section as the “FBI Director”),
10 is authorized to make grants to any local educational
11 agency (as such term is defined in section 8101 of the
12 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
13 U.S.C. 7801)) or group of local educational agencies to
14 assist in preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and
15 responding to cybercrimes.

16 (b) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

17 (1) LIMITATIONS.—Any grant awarded under
18 this section shall supplement and not supplant local
19 educational agency or local funds, as applicable, and
20 may not be used—

21 (A) to provide any Federal cost-sharing
22 contribution on behalf of a local educational
23 agency; or

24 (B) for any recreational or social purpose.

1 (2) APPROVED ACTIVITIES FOR GRANTS.—A
2 local educational agency that receives funds through
3 this grant program shall use such funds for one or
4 more of the following activities:

5 (A) Supporting or enhancing information
6 sharing and analysis organizations.

7 (B) Implementing or coordinating systems
8 and services that use cyber threat indicators (as
9 such term is defined in section 102 of the Cy-
10 bersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6
11 U.S.C. 1501)) to address cybersecurity threats
12 or vulnerabilities.

13 (C) Preventing, preparing for, protecting
14 against, and responding to cybercrimes, includ-
15 ing coordinating with—

16 (i) emergency management elements
17 of the State in which the local educational
18 agency is located, municipality, and local
19 educational agency;

20 (ii) Federal Bureau of Investigation
21 or Department of Homeland Security
22 units, as appropriate;

23 (iii) entities associated with critical in-
24 frastructure or key resources;

1 (iv) information sharing and analysis
2 organizations;

3 (v) public safety answering points; or

4 (vi) nongovernmental organizations
5 engaged in cybersecurity research as an in-
6 formation analysis and sharing organiza-
7 tion designated by the Federal Bureau of
8 Investigation or the Department of Home-
9 land Security.

10 (D) Establishing programs, such as schol-
11 arships or apprenticeships, to provide financial
12 assistance to students served by the local edu-
13 cational agency who—

14 (i) pursue formal education, training,
15 and industry-recognized certifications for
16 careers in cybersecurity as identified by the
17 National Initiative for Cybersecurity Edu-
18 cation; and

19 (ii) commit to working for a local edu-
20 cational agency for not less than 2 years.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
22 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
23 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

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