

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7569

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Energy Cybersecurity
3 University Leadership Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. ENERGY CYBERSECURITY UNIVERSITY LEADER-**
5 **SHIP PROGRAM.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Addressing cybersecurity vulnerabilities in
8 energy-related critical infrastructure after an intru-
9 sion occurs is inefficient, ineffective, and costly.

10 (2) Integrating cybersecurity considerations
11 into the research, design, and development of energy
12 infrastructure represents a cost-effective approach to
13 enhancing the security, resilience, and reliability of
14 the electric grid, oil and natural gas pipelines, and
15 other energy distribution, transmission, and genera-
16 tion systems.

17 (3) Successfully employing the approach out-
18 lined in paragraph (2) as a guiding principle for the
19 Department’s energy infrastructure activities will re-
20 quire a diverse, inclusive, and highly skilled work-
21 force which possesses energy-specific cybersecurity
22 expertise and familiarity with associated research,
23 development, and demonstration needs.

24 (4) A dedicated science scholarship program at
25 the Department for graduate students and
26 postdoctoral researchers studying energy-specific cy-

1 bersecurity disciplines could help address the chal-
2 lenges stated in paragraphs (1) through (3).

3 (b) PROGRAM.—

4 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of En-
5 ergy shall establish an Energy Cybersecurity Univer-
6 sity Leadership Program (referred to in this section
7 as the “Program”) to carry out the activities de-
8 scribed in paragraph (2).

9 (2) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
10 shall—

11 (A) provide financial assistance, on a com-
12 petitive basis, for scholarships, fellowships, and
13 research and development projects at institu-
14 tions of higher education to support graduate
15 students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing
16 a course of study that integrates cybersecurity
17 competencies within disciplines associated with
18 energy infrastructure needs;

19 (B) provide graduate students and
20 postdoctoral researchers supported under the
21 Program with research traineeship experiences
22 at National Laboratories and utilities; and

23 (C) conduct outreach to historically Black
24 colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges or
25 Universities, and minority-serving institutions.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
3 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
4 the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-
5 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the
6 development and implementation of the Program.

7 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
9 means the Department of Energy.

10 (2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNI-
11 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college and
12 university” has the meaning given the term “part B
13 institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education
14 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

15 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
16 term “institution of higher education” has the
17 meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

19 (4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
20 term “minority-serving institution” means an eligi-
21 ble institution under section 371(a) of the Higher
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

23 (5) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “Na-
24 tional Laboratory” has the meaning given such term

1 in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
2 U.S.C. 15801).

3 (6) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
4 term “Tribal College or University” has the meaning
5 given such term in section 316(b) of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

Passed the House of Representatives July 27, 2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.