

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 658

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2021

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, 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 “National Cybersecurity
5 Preparedness Consortium Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “consortium” means a group pri-
9 marily composed of nonprofit entities, including aca-

1 demic institutions, that develop, update, and deliver
 2 cybersecurity training in support of homeland secu-
 3 rity;

4 (2) the terms “cybersecurity risk” and “inci-
 5 dent” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
 6 tion 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
 7 (6 U.S.C. 659(a));

8 (3) the term “Department” means the Depart-
 9 ment of Homeland Security; and

10 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
 11 of Homeland Security.

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CON-**
 13 **SORTIUM.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may work with a
 15 consortium to support efforts to address cybersecurity
 16 risks and incidents.

17 (b) ASSISTANCE TO THE NCCIC.—The Secretary
 18 may work with a consortium to assist the national cyberse-
 19 curity and communications integration center of the De-
 20 partment (established under section 2209 of the Home-
 21 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659)) to—

22 (1) provide training to State and local first re-
 23 sponders and officials specifically for preparing for
 24 and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents,
 25 in accordance with applicable law;

1 (2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing
2 existing programs and models in accordance with
3 such section 2209, for State and local first respond-
4 ers and officials, related to cybersecurity risks and
5 incidents;

6 (3) provide technical assistance services to build
7 and sustain capabilities in support of preparedness
8 for and response to cybersecurity risks and inci-
9 dents, including threats of terrorism and acts of ter-
10 rorism, in accordance with such section 2209;

11 (4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training
12 and simulation exercises for entities, including State
13 and local governments, critical infrastructure owners
14 and operators, and private industry, to encourage
15 community-wide coordination in defending against
16 and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents,
17 in accordance with section 2210(c) of the Homeland
18 Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 660(c));

19 (5) help States and communities develop cyber-
20 security information sharing programs, in accord-
21 ance with section 2209 of the Homeland Security
22 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), for the dissemination
23 of homeland security information related to cyberse-
24 curity risks and incidents; and

1 (6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and inci-
2 dent prevention and response into existing State and
3 local emergency plans, including continuity of oper-
4 ations plans.

5 (c) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF A
6 CONSORTIUM.—In selecting a consortium with which to
7 work under this Act, the Secretary shall take into consid-
8 eration the following:

9 (1) Any prior experience conducting cybersecu-
10 rity training and exercises for State and local enti-
11 ties.

12 (2) Geographic diversity of the members of any
13 such consortium so as to cover different regions
14 throughout the United States.

15 (d) METRICS.—If the Secretary works with a consor-
16 tium under subsection (a), the Secretary shall measure the
17 effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the consor-
18 tium under this Act.

19 (e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-
20 reach to universities and colleges, including historically
21 Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institu-
22 tions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minor-
23 ity-serving institutions, regarding opportunities to support
24 efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, by
25 working with the Secretary under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2 Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize
3 a consortium to control or direct any law enforcement
4 agency in the exercise of the duties of the law enforcement
5 agency.

○