

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2222

To require the Director of the Defense Media Activity to establish a course of education on digital content provenance and to carry out a pilot program on implementing digital content provenance standards, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10, 2023

Mr. PETERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Director of the Defense Media Activity to establish a course of education on digital content provenance and to carry out a pilot program on implementing digital content provenance standards, 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 “Digital Defense Con-
5 tent Provenance Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIGITAL CONTENT**

2 **PROVENANCE.**

3 (a) BRIEFING.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director
6 of the Defense Media Activity (DMA) shall provide
7 to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate
8 and the Committee on Armed Services of the House
9 of Representatives a briefing on developing a course
10 of education at the Defense Information School
11 (DINFOS) to teach the practical concepts and skills
12 needed by Department of Defense public affairs,
13 audiovisual, visual information, and records manage-
14 ment specialists.

15 (2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing provided pursu-
16 ant to paragraph (1) shall cover the following:

17 (A) The expertise and qualifications of the
18 Department personnel who will be responsible
19 for teaching the proposed course of education.

20 (B) The list of sources that will be con-
21 sulted and used to develop the proposed cur-
22 riculum for the course of education.

23 (C) A description of the industry open
24 technical standards under subsection (b)(1)(C).

25 (D) The status of the implementation of
26 the course of education.

1 (b) COURSE OF EDUCATION REQUIRED.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-
4 rector of the Defense Media Activity shall establish
5 a course of education at the Defense Information
6 School to teach the practical concepts and skills
7 needed by public affairs, audiovisual, visual informa-
8 tion, and records management specialists to under-
9 stand the following:

10 (A) Digital content provenance for applica-
11 ble Department media content.

12 (B) The challenges posed to Department
13 missions and operations by a digital content
14 forgery.

15 (C) How existing industry open technical
16 standards may be used to authenticate the dig-
17 ital content provenance of applicable Depart-
18 ment media content.

19 (2) MATTERS COVERED.—The course of edu-
20 cation established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
21 cover the following:

22 (A) The challenges to Department mis-
23 sions and operations posed by a digital content
24 forgery.

1 (B) The development of industry open
2 technical standards for verifying the digital con-
3 tent provenance of applicable Department
4 media content.

5 (C) Hands-on training techniques for cap-
6 turing secure and authenticated digital content
7 for documenting and communicating Depart-
8 ment themes and messages.

9 (D) Training for completing post-produc-
10 tion tasks by using industry open technical
11 standards for digital content provenance and
12 transmitting applicable Department media con-
13 tent in both operational and nonoperational en-
14 vironments.

15 (E) Such other matters as the Director
16 considers appropriate.

17 (3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
18 date of the establishment of the course required in
19 paragraph (1), the Director shall provide the Com-
20 mittee on Armed Services of the Senate and the
21 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives a report on the following:

23 (A) The status of the development of a
24 curriculum to carry out the course of education
25 required by paragraph (1).

(B) The implementation plan of the Director for such course of education, including the following:

(i) The expertise and qualifications of the Department personnel responsible for teaching the course of education.

(ii) The list of sources consulted and used to develop the curriculum for the course of education.

(iii) A description of the industry open technical standards under subsection (b)(1)(C).

(iv) The status of the implementation of the course of education.

(C) The resources available to the Director to carry out this subsection and whether the Director requires any additional resources to carry out this subsection.

(c) PILOT PROGRAM ON IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL CONTENT PROVENANCE STANDARDS.—

(1) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall commence a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of implementing industry open technical standards for dig-

1 ital content provenance for official Department pho-
2 tographic and video visual documentation that is
3 publicly released by the Defense Visual Information
4 Distribution Service (DVIDS) and other distribution
5 platforms, systems, and services used by the Depart-
6 ment.

7 (2) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
8 gram required by paragraph (1), the Director
9 shall—

10 (A) establish a process for using industry
11 open technical standards for verifying the dig-
12 ital content provenance of applicable Depart-
13 ment media content;

14 (B) apply technology solutions on photo-
15 graphs and videos of the Department publicly
16 released after the date of the enactment of this
17 section, that comport with industry open tech-
18 nical standard for digital content provenance;

19 (C) assess the feasibility and advisability of
20 applying an industry open technical standard
21 for digital content provenance on historical vis-
22 ual information records of the Department
23 stored at the Defense Visual Information
24 Records Center; and

1 (D) develop and apply measure of effec-
2 tiveness for the execution of the pilot program.

3 (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the pilot
4 program required by paragraph (1), the Director
5 may consult with federally funded research and de-
6 velopment centers, private industry, academia, and
7 such others as the Director considers appropriate.

8 (4) TERMINATION.—The pilot program carried
9 out pursuant to paragraph (1) shall terminate on
10 January 1, 2027.

11 (5) REPORT.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January
13 1, 2026, the Director shall submit to the Com-
14 mittee on Armed Services of the Senate and the
15 Committee on Armed Services of the House of
16 Representatives a report on the pilot program.

17 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
18 pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include the
19 following:

20 (i) The findings of the Director with
21 respect to the pilot program.

22 (ii) The names of all entities the Di-
23 rector consulted with in carrying out the
24 pilot program as authorized under para-
25 graph (3).

1 (iii) Assessment of the effectiveness of
2 the pilot.

3 (iv) A recommendation as to whether
4 the pilot program should be made perma-
5 nent.

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) The term “applicable Department media
8 content” means the media holdings generated,
9 stored, or controlled by the Defense Media Activity.

10 (2) The term “digital content forgery” means
11 the use of emerging technologies, including artificial
12 intelligence and machine learning techniques to fab-
13 ricate or manipulate audio, visual, or text content
14 with the intent to mislead.

15 (3) The term “digital content provenance”
16 means the verifiable chronology of the origin and
17 history of a piece of digital content, such as an
18 image, video, audio recording, or electronic docu-
19 ment.

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