

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1269

To promote United States leadership in technical standards by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of State to take certain actions to encourage and enable United States participation in developing standards and specifications for artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging technologies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 2, 2025

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To promote United States leadership in technical standards by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of State to take certain actions to encourage and enable United States participation in developing standards and specifications for artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging technologies, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Promoting United
3 States Leadership in Standards Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER**
7 **CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.**—The
8 term “artificial intelligence and other critical and
9 emerging technologies” means a subset of artificial
10 intelligence and other critical and emerging tech-
11 nologies included in the list of such technologies
12 identified and maintained by the National Science
13 and Technology Council of the Office of Science and
14 Technology Policy as the Director considers appro-
15 priate for purposes of this Act.

16 (2) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means
17 the Director of the National Institute of Standards
18 and Technology.

19 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZA-**
20 **TIONS DEVELOPING STANDARDS AND SPECI-**
21 **FICATIONS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
22 **AND OTHER CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-**
23 **NOLOGIES.**

24 (a) **BRIEFING REQUIRED.**—

25 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after
26 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director

1 shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State,
2 provide to Congress a briefing to assist in the eval-
3 uation and identification of opportunities for Federal
4 Government support for industry-led efforts in the
5 development of technical standards for artificial in-
6 telligence and other critical and emerging tech-
7 nologies.

8 (2) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION.—In pre-
9 paring the briefing required by paragraph (1), the
10 Director and the Secretary of State shall jointly con-
11 sult with the heads of such Federal agencies as they
12 jointly consider relevant.

13 (3) ELEMENTS.—The briefing provided pursu-
14 ant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

15 (A) An overview of standards activities re-
16 lating to artificial intelligence and other critical
17 and emerging technologies and information
18 about the following:

19 (i) Key technical standards that are
20 the subject of ongoing activity.

21 (ii) Key standards bodies hosting
22 these activities.

23 (iii) Any Federal agency that is par-
24 ticipating in these activities.

1 (B) An analysis identifying where partici-
2 pation by United States industry and Federal
3 agencies in standards activities in artificial in-
4 telligence and other critical and emerging tech-
5 nologies would be facilitated or enhanced by
6 conducting standards meetings hosted in the
7 United States.

8 (C) Recommendations for effectively in-
9 forming United States industry and Federal
10 agencies on ongoing standardization activities
11 with the objective of increasing participation of
12 such industry and agencies in such activities.

13 (4) FEDERAL AGENCY NOTICE REQUIRE-
14 MENT.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Using the mechanism
16 established pursuant to subparagraph (B), each
17 head of a Federal agency shall transmit to the
18 Secretary of State and the Director notice of
19 the participation of their respective Federal
20 agency in a standards activity relating to artifi-
21 cial intelligence and other critical and emerging
22 technologies.

23 (B) MECHANISM.—The Secretary of State
24 and the Director shall, in coordination with the
25 Director of the Office of Management and

1 Budget, jointly develop a mechanism for report-
2 ing participation by Federal agencies in stand-
3 ards activities.

4 (b) WEB PORTAL.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to inform United
6 States industry and Federal agencies about existing
7 and ongoing international efforts to develop tech-
8 nical standards for artificial intelligence and other
9 critical and emerging technologies and opportunities
10 for participation in such efforts, the Director shall,
11 in coordination with the Secretary of State, establish
12 an accessible web portal to help such industry and
13 agencies navigate and participate in such efforts.

14 (2) CONTENTS.—The web portal established
15 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include regularly
16 updated lists of the following:

17 (A) International efforts described in para-
18 graph (1) and information on opportunities for
19 participation in such efforts.

20 (B) Information on accessing standards,
21 both in development and published, for artificial
22 intelligence and other critical and emerging
23 technologies.

24 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director may, in
25 coordination with the Secretary of State, enter into

1 such cooperative agreements with such nongovern-
2 mental organizations as the Director considers ap-
3 propriate to establish the web portal required by
4 paragraph (1).

5 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT STANDARDS MEET-**
6 **INGS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND**
7 **OTHER CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-**
8 **NOLOGIES IN THE UNITED STATES.**

9 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and sub-
12 ject to the availability of appropriated funds, the Di-
13 rector shall, in coordination with the Secretary of
14 State and the heads of such other Federal agencies
15 as the Director considers appropriate, establish a
16 pilot program on supporting standards meetings for
17 artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging
18 technologies in the United States by awarding
19 grants to eligible entities described in subsection (b)
20 hosting meetings of organizations described in para-
21 graph (1) of such subsection to support the hosting
22 of such meetings in the United States.

23 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director may, in
24 coordination with the Secretary of State, carry out
25 the pilot program required by paragraph (1) by en-

1 tering into such cooperative agreements with such
2 nongovernmental organizations as the Director con-
3 siders appropriate to establish and administer the
4 pilot program.

5 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of the pilot
6 program required by subsection (a), an eligible entity is—

7 (1) an organization that is developing standards
8 and specifications for artificial intelligence and other
9 critical and emerging technologies for at least 1
10 technical standard that affects the interests of 1 or
11 more Federal agencies; or

12 (2) an entity that hosts an organization de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1).

14 (c) GRANTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot
16 program required by subsection (a), the Director
17 shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State,
18 award grants to eligible entities to host meetings as
19 described in such subsection.

20 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-
21 ing a grant under this subsection to host a meeting
22 in the United States may use the amount of the
23 grant for such costs as the Director considers rea-
24 sonable for hosting the meeting in the United
25 States, but not more than fifty percent of antici-

1 pated cost of hosting the meeting and not more than
2 a maximum amount that the Director shall establish
3 for purposes of this subsection. Such costs may in-
4 clude the following:

5 (A) Costs related to the preparation and
6 planning of meetings described in subsection
7 (a).

8 (B) Meeting venue-related expenses.

9 (C) Such other costs that may support the
10 eligible entity in conducting a standards meet-
11 ing in the United States.

12 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deciding whether to
13 award a grant under this subsection to an eligible
14 entity to host a meeting, the Director may, in co-
15 ordination with the Secretary of State, consider the
16 extent to which the eligible entity—

17 (A) is or hosts an organization that admin-
18 isters technical standards activity in artificial
19 intelligence and other critical and emerging
20 technologies that involves United States-based
21 participants, including but not limited to par-
22 ticipants from Federal agencies of the United
23 States;

24 (B) has a demonstrable history of partici-
25 pating in or hosting successful meetings; and

1 (C) has a stable or growing participant
2 base.

3 (d) GUIDANCE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, in co-
5 ordination with the Secretary of State, develop and
6 periodically update guidance for the pilot program
7 carried out under this section.

8 (2) ELEMENTS.—The guidance developed and
9 updated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall cover the
10 following:

11 (A) Eligibility for grants awarded under
12 the pilot program.

13 (B) How grants are awarded under sub-
14 section (c).

15 (C) The duration and amounts of grants
16 awarded under subsection (c).

17 (D) The merit review process for the pilot
18 program.

19 (E) Priority areas for technical standards
20 activity.

21 (F) Means for recipients of grants under
22 the pilot program to report expenses relating to
23 costs described in subsection (c)(2)(D).

1 (G) Such additional matters as the Direc-
2 tor determines appropriate for purposes of the
3 pilot program.

4 (e) BRIEFINGS FOR CONGRESS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the third year of the
6 pilot program carried out under this section and in
7 each subsequent year of the pilot program, the Di-
8 rector and the Secretary of State shall jointly pro-
9 vide Congress with a briefing on the pilot program.

10 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each briefing provided pursu-
11 ant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

12 (A) An assessment of the effectiveness of
13 the pilot program with respect to improving the
14 hosting of standards meetings in the United
15 States.

16 (B) Identification of the recipients of
17 grants under the pilot program.

18 (C) The geographic distribution of
19 attendees at meetings supported with grants
20 under the pilot program.

21 (D) A summary of the expenses for which
22 the amounts of grants awarded under the pilot
23 program were used.

24 (f) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERMANENT IMPLE-
25 MENTATION.—If, before the date that is 2 years after the

1 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director determines,
2 in consultation with the Secretary of State, that providing
3 support as described in subsection (a) is feasible and ad-
4 visable, the Director shall, not later than 2 years after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act—

6 (1) develop recommendations for such legisla-
7 tive or administrative action as the Director con-
8 siders appropriate to establish a permanent imple-
9 mentation of the pilot program; and

10 (2) submit to Congress the recommendations
11 developed pursuant to paragraph (1).

12 (g) TERMINATION.—The pilot program required by
13 subsection (a)(1) shall terminate on the date that is 5
14 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

15 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
17 \$5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through
18 2028.

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