

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3563

To require the Secretary of Defense assess and, as appropriate, implement open technical standards for digital content provenance, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense assess and, as appropriate, implement open technical standards for digital content provenance, 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. ROADMAP FOR ADVANCING DIGITAL CONTENT**
4 **PROVENANCE STANDARDS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 1, 2026, the
6 Secretary of Defense shall develop a roadmap to guide po-
7 tential future adoption and integration of digital content
8 provenance capabilities across the Department of Defense.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The roadmap developed pursuant
2 to subsection (a) shall—

3 (1) identify and assess current and proposed
4 open technical standards for digital content prove-
5 nance that could be applied to publicly released dig-
6 ital media assets produced by the Department of
7 Defense, the military components, and field activities
8 of the Department;

9 (2) identify strategic objectives relating to se-
10 curing and authenticating public-facing digital con-
11 tent;

12 (3) describe relevant roles and responsibilities
13 across military departments and components of the
14 Department;

15 (4) explore the establishment of standardized
16 processes to enable embedding and verification of
17 content credentials in appropriate public-facing De-
18 partment media;

19 (5) outline potential acquisition approaches for
20 supporting technologies and solutions;

21 (6) develop metrics, as appropriate, to assess
22 the effectiveness, reliability, and scalability of digital
23 content provenance technologies;

24 (7) establish an engagement mechanism for co-
25 ordination with relevant stakeholders, including fed-

1 erally funded research and development centers, in-
 2 dustry, and academia, to align efforts with evolving
 3 best practices and technical capabilities; and

4 (8) establish notional milestones and resource
 5 needs, disaggregated by fiscal year, to inform longer-
 6 term planning.

7 (c) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than July
 8 1, 2026, the Secretary of Defense shall provide the con-
 9 gressional defense committees (as defined in section
 10 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) a briefing on the
 11 Department’s roadmap for adopting digital content prove-
 12 nance standards. The briefing should address—

13 (1) initial findings regarding feasibility, oppor-
 14 tunities, and potential barriers;

15 (2) stakeholder engagement to date; and

16 (3) any planned next steps or pilot efforts
 17 under consideration.

18 (d) DEFINITION OF DIGITAL CONTENT PROVE-
 19 NANCE.—In this section, the term “digital content prove-
 20 nance” means the verifiable history and origin of a digital
 21 asset, including information about its creation, ownership,
 22 and modifications over time.

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