

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2556

To provide for the establishment of Vertical Centers of Excellence on Cybersecurity to create solutions to, and promote best practices for, industry-specific cybersecurity challenges.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2013

Mr. HONDA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To provide for the establishment of Vertical Centers of Excellence on Cybersecurity to create solutions to, and promote best practices for, industry-specific cybersecurity challenges.

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 “Excellence in Cyberse-  
5 curity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Cybercrime is one of the preeminent threats  
2 facing the United States today, and presents a cu-  
3 mulative national security, economic, and individual  
4 threat unlike any before it.

5           (2) The total global cost of cybercrime is esti-  
6 mated to be \$1,000,000,000,000 per year and rep-  
7 resents one of the greatest transfers of wealth in the  
8 history of the world.

9           (3) Cybercrime surveys have found that the so-  
10 lutions to cybersecurity threats are multi-pronged  
11 and go beyond increased data sharing and threat  
12 analysis.

13           (4) Many leaders of organizations do not know  
14 who is responsible for the cybersecurity needs of  
15 their organization or industry. These leaders also  
16 underestimate the capabilities of their adversaries in  
17 cybercrime and the strategic, financial, reputational,  
18 and regulatory risks those adversaries pose to orga-  
19 nizations.

20           (5) Security experts are not effectively commu-  
21 nicating best practices to address cyberthreats,  
22 cyberattacks, and defensive technologies.

23           (6) Cybersecurity experts believe there are 4  
24 key factors that impact the vulnerability of an orga-  
25 nization to cybercrime:

1 (A) Understanding the changes to and best  
2 practices for the current threat environment.

3 (B) Strategy and execution of a cybersecu-  
4 rity program.

5 (C) The identification of key assets in need  
6 of protection.

7 (D) The ability to develop relationships  
8 with similar organizations to develop protection  
9 within the industry ecosystem.

10 (7) It is essential that the United States  
11 prioritize the development of organizational relation-  
12 ships and best practices of specific industries to help  
13 protect those industries against threats to cybersecu-  
14 rity.

15 **SEC. 3. VERTICAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE ON CYBER-**  
16 **SECURITY.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the National  
18 Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish 5  
19 Vertical Centers of Excellence on Cybersecurity.

20 (b) MISSION.—Each Center shall convene experts  
21 and individuals in the industry that is the focus of the  
22 work of that Center for the purposes of—

23 (1) identifying and analyzing existing and fu-  
24 ture cybersecurity challenges faced by various indus-  
25 tries;

1           (2) creating solutions and promoting best prac-  
2           tices to address such challenges; and

3           (3) collaborating with individuals in those in-  
4           dustries to share knowledge.

5           (c) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing each Center  
6 under subsection (a), the Director, not later than 6  
7 months after the date of enactment of this Act, shall se-  
8 lect—

9           (1) a particular industry that faces cybersecuri-  
10          ty challenges to be the focus of the work of that  
11          Center;

12          (2) a manager to be responsible for the admin-  
13          istrative functions of that Center; and

14          (3) the location of that Center pursuant to sub-  
15          section (d).

16          (d) LOCATION REQUIREMENTS.—The Director shall  
17 seek to ensure that each Center is located a sufficient geo-  
18 graphical distance from another Center and shall select  
19 a location for each Center based on—

20          (1) proximity to the geographical location of a  
21          number of businesses operating in the industry se-  
22          lected pursuant to subsection (c)(1);

23          (2) accessibility to the experts selected pursuant  
24          to section 5; and

1           (3) the capacity of the facilities at the Center  
2           to convene, and promote collaboration among, ex-  
3           perts and individuals in that industry.

4           (e) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Director may establish  
5           partnerships with public or nonprofit entities to provide  
6           services for a Center established under subsection (a).

7   **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF CENTERS.**

8           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director and the manager of  
9           each Center shall jointly select a group of experts, con-  
10          sistent with the requirements in section 5, to carry out  
11          the duties described in subsection (b).

12          (b) DUTIES OF EXPERTS.—The experts at each Cen-  
13          ter shall—

14               (1) identify and analyze existing and future cy-  
15               bersecurity challenges faced by the industry selected  
16               pursuant to section 2(c)(1);

17               (2) create solutions to those cybersecurity chal-  
18               lenges that are cost-effective, repeatable, and scal-  
19               able;

20               (3) collaborate, convene discussions, and share  
21               knowledge with individuals in that industry to ac-  
22               complish the work of the Center; and

23               (4) create educational programs to promote  
24               best practices in cybersecurity for such individuals.

1 (c) REQUIREMENTS OF CENTERS.—Each Center  
2 shall—

3 (1) work within the Cybersecurity Framework  
4 created pursuant to section 7 of Executive Order  
5 13636, entitled “Improving Critical Infrastructure  
6 Cybersecurity” (78 Fed. Reg. 11739);

7 (2) collaborate with each of the other Centers  
8 to share relevant information;

9 (3) encourage the development of relationships  
10 among individuals in the industry selected pursuant  
11 to section 2(c)(1); and

12 (4) share the best practices and lessons learned  
13 from the work of the Center with those individuals.

14 (d) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Director, in consulta-  
15 tion with individuals in the industry selected pursuant to  
16 section 2(c)(1), shall establish procedures to ensure the  
17 confidentiality of the information handled by the Centers.  
18 The Centers shall be exempt from the requirements set  
19 forth in section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code  
20 (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act).

21 **SEC. 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERTS.**

22 (a) NUMBER AND COMPENSATION.—The Director  
23 shall determine—

24 (1) the number of experts at each Center; and

25 (2) the compensation for each expert selected.

1 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Experts shall have experience  
2 in government, academia, or the particular industry that  
3 is the focus of the work of the Center, and any other quali-  
4 fications the Director may determine.

5 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
7 of this Act, the Director shall submit a report to Congress  
8 describing the cybersecurity challenges, solutions, and best  
9 practices addressed by each Center.

10 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12 (1) CENTER.—The term “Center” means a  
13 Vertical Center of Excellence on Cybersecurity es-  
14 tablished under section 2(a).

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

18 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-  
20 tor for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2019  
21 \$25,000,000 to carry out this Act. Amounts appropriated  
22 pursuant to this section shall be subdivided into 5 equal  
23 amounts to be distributed to each Center.

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