

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2998

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish the Defense Quantum Information Consortium, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2018

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish the Defense Quantum Information Consortium, 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 “Quantum Computing
5 Research Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) focused and continued investment in the de-
9 velopment of viable quantum information science
10 technology is vital to national security;

1 (2) quantum information science should address
2 two critical development problems, namely quantum
3 communication and quantum computing;

4 (3) alignment of effort within the United States
5 government, academic, and private sectors are vital
6 to ensuring the best technology is made available for
7 the defense of the United States; and

8 (4) to the extent possible to protect national se-
9 curity, work performed under section 3 should be
10 maintained at the lowest possible classification level
11 to promote coordination between consortium part-
12 ners and growth within the field of quantum infor-
13 mation science.

14 **SEC. 3. DEFENSE QUANTUM INFORMATION CONSORTIUM.**

15 (a) CONSORTIUM.—

16 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of De-
18 fense shall, in coordination with the Director of
19 the Office of Science and Technology Policy, es-
20 tablish a consortium on matters relating to
21 quantum information sciences.

22 (B) DESIGNATION.—The consortium es-
23 tablished under paragraph (1) shall be known
24 as the “Defense Quantum Information Consor-
25 tium” (in this section the “Consortium”).

1 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Consortium shall con-
2 sist of—

3 (A) one component composed of members
4 selected by the Chief of Naval Research from
5 among institutions of higher learning and in-
6 dustry partners located in the eastern half of
7 the United States which are recognized for
8 achievement in quantum information science;
9 and

10 (B) one component composed of members
11 selected by the Director of the Army Research
12 Laboratory from among institutions of higher
13 learning and industry partners located in the
14 western half of the United States which are rec-
15 ognized for achievement in quantum informa-
16 tion science.

17 (3) DUTIES.—

18 (A) CHIEF OF NAVAL RESEARCH.—The
19 Chief of Naval Research shall—

20 (i) coordinate and administer the
21 grants awarded under subsection (b) to
22 members selected under paragraph (2)(A);
23 and

24 (ii) coordinate partnerships between
25 such members.

1 (B) DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY RESEARCH
2 LABORATORY.—The Director of the Army Re-
3 search Laboratory shall—

4 (i) coordinate and administer the
5 grants awarded under subsection (b) to
6 members selected under paragraph (2)(B);
7 and

8 (ii) coordinate partnerships between
9 such members.

10 (b) BOARD.—

11 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall, in
12 coordination with the Director, establish a board to
13 support the Consortium.

14 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The board established
15 under paragraph (1) shall be composed of members
16 as follows:

17 (A) The Chief of Naval Research and a
18 designee of the Chief.

19 (B) The Director of the Army Research
20 Laboratory and a designee of the Director.

21 (C) The Assistant Director of Quantum
22 Information Science at the Office of Science
23 and Technology Policy.

24 (D) Members of the National Quantum
25 Initiative (NQI).

1 (3) DUTIES.—The duties of the board estab-
 2 lished under paragraph (1) are as follows:

3 (A) To award grants under subsection (c).

4 (B) To assist with ongoing research being
 5 conducted by members of the Consortium relat-
 6 ing to quantum information sciences.

7 (C) To facilitate partnerships between
 8 members of the Consortium.

9 (c) GRANTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The board established under
 11 subsection (b)(1) shall award grants to members of
 12 the Consortium to conduct research on matters re-
 13 lating to quantum information science.

14 (2) APPLICATION.—A member of the Consor-
 15 tium seeking a grant under this subsection shall
 16 submit to the board established under subsection
 17 (b)(1) an application therefor at such time, in such
 18 manner, and containing such information as the
 19 board may prescribe.

20 (3) SELECTION.—

21 (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECTION COM-
 22 MITTEES.—The board established under sub-
 23 section (b)(1) shall establish a committee to se-
 24 lect applicants for the award of grants under
 25 this subsection.

1 (B) SELECTION PROCESS.—In selecting
2 applicants for awards of grants under this sub-
3 section, the committee established under sub-
4 paragraph (A) shall—

5 (i) develop a competitive application
6 and grant making process that furthers
7 the goals of ensuring the competitiveness
8 of the United States in quantum informa-
9 tion science; and

10 (ii) exercise that process to solicit
11 grant applications from Consortium mem-
12 bers, select among applications, and grant
13 high quality awards.

14 (4) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—In any case in
15 which a member of the board established under sub-
16 section (b)(1) or the committee established under
17 paragraph (3)(A) of this subsection has a conflict of
18 interest with an applicant or an application for a
19 grant under this subsection, such member shall
20 recuse him or herself from all matters relating to
21 consideration of such applicant or application.

22 (d) TERMINATION.—The requirements and authori-
23 ties of this section shall terminate at the end of fiscal year
24 2024.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
3 essary to carry out this section.

