

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 594

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2017

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, 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 “National Cybersecurity
5 Preparedness Consortium Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “consortium” means a group pri-
9 marily composed of nonprofit entities, including aca-

1 demic institutions, that develop, update, and deliver
2 cybersecurity training in support of homeland secu-
3 rity;

4 (2) the terms “cybersecurity risk” and “inci-
5 dent” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
6 tion 227(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
7 (6 U.S.C. 148(a));

8 (3) the term “Department” means the Depart-
9 ment of Homeland Security; and

10 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
11 of Homeland Security.

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CON-**
13 **SORTIUM.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may work with a
15 consortium, including the National Cybersecurity Pre-
16 paredness Consortium, to support efforts to address cyber-
17 security risks and incidents, including threats of terrorism
18 and acts of terrorism.

19 (b) ASSISTANCE TO THE NCCIC.—The Secretary
20 may work with a consortium to assist the national cyberse-
21 curity and communications integration center of the De-
22 partment (established under section 227 of the Homeland
23 Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148)) to—

24 (1) provide training to State and local first re-
25 sponders and officials specifically for preparing for

1 and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents,
2 including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism,
3 in accordance with applicable law;

4 (2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing
5 existing programs and models in accordance with
6 such section 227, for State and local first responders
7 and officials, related to cybersecurity risks and inci-
8 dents, including threats of terrorism and acts of ter-
9 rorism;

10 (3) provide technical assistance services to build
11 and sustain capabilities in support of preparedness
12 for and response to cybersecurity risks and inci-
13 dents, including threats of terrorism and acts of ter-
14 rorism, in accordance with such section 227;

15 (4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training
16 and simulation exercises for entities, including State
17 and local governments, critical infrastructure owners
18 and operators, and private industry, to encourage
19 community-wide coordination in defending against
20 and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents,
21 including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism,
22 in accordance with section 228(c) of the Homeland
23 Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 149(c));

24 (5) help States and communities develop cyber-
25 security information sharing programs, in accord-

1 ance with section 227 of the Homeland Security Act
2 of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148), for the dissemination of
3 homeland security information related to cybersecu-
4 rity risks and incidents, including threats of ter-
5 rorism and acts of terrorism; and

6 (6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and inci-
7 dent prevention and response (including related to
8 threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism) into ex-
9 isting State and local emergency plans, including
10 continuity of operations plans.

11 (c) PROHIBITION ON DUPLICATION.—In carrying out
12 the functions under subsection (b), the Secretary shall, to
13 the greatest extent practicable, seek to prevent unneces-
14 sary duplication of existing programs or efforts of the De-
15 partment.

16 (d) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF A
17 CONSORTIUM.—In selecting a consortium with which to
18 work under this Act, the Secretary shall take into consid-
19 eration the following:

20 (1) Any prior experience conducting cybersecu-
21 rity training and exercises for State and local enti-
22 ties.

23 (2) Geographic diversity of the members of any
24 such consortium so as to cover different regions
25 throughout the United States.

1 (e) METRICS.—If the Secretary works with a consor-
2 tium under subsection (a), the Secretary shall measure the
3 effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the consor-
4 tium under this Act.

5 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-
6 reach to universities and colleges, including historically
7 Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institu-
8 tions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minor-
9 ity-serving institutions, regarding opportunities to support
10 efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, in-
11 cluding threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism, by
12 working with the Secretary under subsection (a).

13 (g) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out this
14 Act shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the
15 date of enactment of this Act.

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