

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 658

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Cybersecurity  
3 Preparedness Consortium Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act—

6 (1) the term “consortium” means a group pri-  
7 marily composed of nonprofit entities, including aca-  
8 demic institutions, that develop, update, and deliver  
9 cybersecurity training in support of homeland secu-  
10 rity;

11 (2) the terms “cybersecurity risk” and “inci-  
12 dent” have the meanings given those terms in sec-  
13 tion 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
14 (6 U.S.C. 659(a));

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

17 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
18 of Homeland Security.

19 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CON-**  
20 **SORTIUM.**

21 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may work with a  
22 consortium to support efforts to address cybersecurity  
23 risks and incidents.

24 (b) **ASSISTANCE TO THE NCCIC.**—The Secretary  
25 may work with a consortium to assist the national cyberse-  
26 curity and communications integration center of the De-

1 partment (established under section 2209 of the Home-  
2 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659)) to—

3 (1) provide training to State and local first re-  
4 sponders and officials specifically for preparing for  
5 and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents,  
6 in accordance with applicable law;

7 (2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing  
8 existing programs and models in accordance with  
9 such section 2209, for State and local first respond-  
10 ers and officials, related to cybersecurity risks and  
11 incidents;

12 (3) provide technical assistance services to build  
13 and sustain capabilities in support of preparedness  
14 for and response to cybersecurity risks and inci-  
15 dents, including threats of terrorism and acts of ter-  
16 rorism, in accordance with such section 2209;

17 (4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training  
18 and simulation exercises for entities, including State  
19 and local governments, critical infrastructure owners  
20 and operators, and private industry, to encourage  
21 community-wide coordination in defending against  
22 and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents,  
23 in accordance with section 2210(c) of the Homeland  
24 Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 660(c));

1           (5) help States and communities develop cyber-  
2 security information sharing programs, in accord-  
3 ance with section 2209 of the Homeland Security  
4 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), for the dissemination  
5 of homeland security information related to cyberse-  
6 curity risks and incidents; and

7           (6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and inci-  
8 dent prevention and response into existing State and  
9 local emergency plans, including continuity of oper-  
10 ations plans.

11       (c) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF A  
12 CONSORTIUM.—In selecting a consortium with which to  
13 work under this Act, the Secretary shall take into consid-  
14 eration the following:

15           (1) Any prior experience conducting cybersecu-  
16 rity training and exercises for State and local enti-  
17 ties.

18           (2) Geographic diversity of the members of any  
19 such consortium so as to cover different regions  
20 throughout the United States.

21       (d) METRICS.—If the Secretary works with a consor-  
22 tium under subsection (a), the Secretary shall measure the  
23 effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the consor-  
24 tium under this Act.

1 (e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-  
2 reach to universities and colleges, including historically  
3 Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institu-  
4 tions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minor-  
5 ity-serving institutions, regarding opportunities to support  
6 efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, by  
7 working with the Secretary under subsection (a).

8 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

9 Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize  
10 a consortium to control or direct any law enforcement  
11 agency in the exercise of the duties of the law enforcement  
12 agency.

Passed the Senate July 15, 2021.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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