

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4755

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation

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## AN ACT

To support research on privacy enhancing technologies and  
promote responsible data use, 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 “Privacy Enhancing  
3 Technology Research Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY.**

5 (a) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SUPPORT OF  
6 RESEARCH ON PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY.—The  
7 Director of the National Science Foundation, in consulta-  
8 tion with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies (as  
9 determined by the Director), shall support merit-reviewed  
10 and competitively awarded research on privacy enhancing  
11 technologies, which may include the following:

12 (1) Fundamental research on technologies for  
13 de-identification, pseudonymization, anonymization,  
14 or obfuscation to mitigate individuals’ privacy risks  
15 in data sets while maintaining fairness, accuracy,  
16 and efficiency.

17 (2) Fundamental research on algorithms and  
18 other similar mathematical tools used to protect in-  
19 dividual privacy when collecting, storing, sharing,  
20 analyzing, or aggregating data.

21 (3) Fundamental research on technologies that  
22 promote data minimization in data collection, shar-  
23 ing, and analytics that takes into account the trade-  
24 offs between the data minimization goals and the in-  
25 formational goals of data collection.

1           (4) Research awards on privacy enhancing tech-  
2           nologies coordinated with other relevant Federal  
3           agencies and programs.

4           (5) Supporting education and workforce train-  
5           ing research and development activities, including re-  
6           training and upskilling of the existing workforce, to  
7           increase the number of privacy enhancing technology  
8           researchers and practitioners.

9           (6) Multidisciplinary socio-technical research  
10          that fosters broader understanding of privacy pref-  
11          erences, requirements, and human behavior to in-  
12          form the design and adoption of effective privacy so-  
13          lutions.

14          (7) Development of freely available privacy en-  
15          hancing technology software libraries, platforms, and  
16          applications.

17          (8) Fundamental research on techniques that  
18          may undermine the protections provided by privacy  
19          enhancing technologies, the limitations of such pro-  
20          tections, and the trade-offs between privacy and util-  
21          ity required for the deployment of such technologies.

22          (9) Fundamental research on technologies and  
23          techniques to preserve the privacy and confiden-  
24          tiality of individuals from unconsented, unwanted, or

1       unauthorized location tracking, including through  
2       GPS.

3       (b) INTEGRATION INTO THE COMPUTER AND NET-  
4 WORK SECURITY PROGRAM.—Subparagraph (D) of sec-  
5 tion 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Develop-  
6 ment Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)(D)) is amended by in-  
7 serting “, including privacy enhancing technologies” be-  
8 fore the semicolon.

9       (c) COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
10 OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER STAKE-  
11 HOLDERS.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of  
13 Science and Technology Policy, acting through the  
14 Networking and Information Technology Research  
15 and Development Program, shall coordinate with the  
16 Director of the National Science Foundation, the Di-  
17 rector of the National Institute of Standards and  
18 Technology, the Federal Trade Commission, and the  
19 heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, to  
20 accelerate the development, deployment, and adop-  
21 tion of privacy enhancing technologies.

22           (2) OUTREACH.—The Director of the National  
23 Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct  
24 outreach to—

1 (A) receive input from private, public, and  
2 academic stakeholders on the development of  
3 privacy enhancing technologies; and

4 (B) facilitate and support ongoing public  
5 and private sector engagement to inform the  
6 development and dissemination of voluntary,  
7 consensus-based technical standards, guidelines,  
8 methodologies, procedures, and processes to  
9 cost-effectively increase the integration of pri-  
10 vacy enhancing technologies in data collection,  
11 sharing, and analytics performed by the public  
12 and private sectors.

13 (d) REPORT ON PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY  
14 RESEARCH.—Not later than three years after the date of  
15 the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of  
16 Science and Technology Policy, acting through the Net-  
17 working and Information Technology Research and Devel-  
18 opment Program, shall, in coordination with the Director  
19 of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the  
20 National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the  
21 heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, submit  
22 to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-  
23 tation of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Commerce,  
24 Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee  
25 on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on

1 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-  
2 resentatives, and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Jus-  
3 tice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on  
4 Appropriations of the House of Representatives, a report  
5 containing information relating to the following:

6 (1) The progress of research on privacy enhanc-  
7 ing technologies.

8 (2) The progress of the development of vol-  
9 untary resources described under subsection  
10 (c)(2)(B).

11 (3) Any policy recommendations that could fa-  
12 cilitate and improve communication and coordination  
13 between the private sector and relevant Federal  
14 agencies for the implementation and adoption of pri-  
15 vacy enhancing technologies.

16 (e) PROTECTING PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMA-  
17 TION.—Any personal identifying information collected or  
18 stored through the activities authorized under this section  
19 shall be done in accordance with part 690 of title 45, Code  
20 of Federal Regulations (relating to the protection of  
21 human subjects), or any successor regulation.

22 (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “privacy  
23 enhancing technology”—

24 (1) means any software or hardware solution,  
25 technical process, or other technological means of

1 mitigating individuals' privacy risks arising from  
2 data processing by enhancing predictability, manage-  
3 ability, disassociability, and confidentiality; and

4 (2) may include—

5 (A) cryptographic techniques for facili-  
6 tating computation or analysis on data while  
7 mitigating privacy risks;

8 (B) techniques for—

9 (i) publicly sharing data without ena-  
10 bling inferences to be made about specific  
11 individuals;

12 (ii) giving individuals' control over the  
13 dissemination, sharing, and use of their  
14 data; and

15 (iii) generating synthetic data; and

16 (C) any other technology or approach that  
17 reduces the risk of re-identification, including  
18 when combined with other information.

Passed the House of Representatives April 29, 2024.

Attest:

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,

*Clerk.*