

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9626

To direct the Department of Defense to develop a plan for the establishment of a secure computing and data storage environment for the testing of artificial intelligence trained on biological data, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Mr. KHANNA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Department of Defense to develop a plan for the establishment of a secure computing and data storage environment for the testing of artificial intelligence trained on biological data, 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 “AIxBio Defense Sand-
5 box Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLAN FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SECURE COM-**
2 **PUTING AND DATA STORAGE ENVIRONMENT**
3 **FOR TESTING OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
4 **TRAINED ON BIOLOGICAL DATA.**

5 (a) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Under Secretary of De-
6 fense for Research and Engineering, in coordination with
7 the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer, shall
8 develop a plan for the establishment of a secure computing
9 and data storage environment to facilitate—

10 (1) the testing of artificial intelligence models
11 trained on biological data; and

12 (2) the development and testing of products
13 generated by such models.

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan under subsection (a) shall
15 provide as follows:

16 (1) DESIGNATION.—The secure computing and
17 data storage environment described in subsection (a)
18 shall be known as the “AIxBio sandbox”.

19 (2) COMPUTING AND DATA STORAGE INFRA-
20 STRUCTURE.—The AIxBio sandbox shall consist of a
21 secure computing and data storage infrastructure to
22 be used for the testing and development activities
23 described in subsection (a). To the extent feasible,
24 such infrastructure shall be assembled from the ex-
25 isting computing and data storage infrastructure or-
26 ganizations and elements of the Department of De-

1 fense with relevant capabilities, such as the Test Re-
2 source Management Center and the AI Accelerator
3 of the Department of the Air Force.

4 (3) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The Under Sec-
5 retary of Defense for Research and Engineering
6 shall be responsible for—

7 (A) managing and overseeing the activities
8 of the sandbox;

9 (B) coordinating the efforts of the organi-
10 zations of the Department involved in the ac-
11 tivities of the sandbox;

12 (C) selecting projects for development and
13 testing using the sandbox in accordance with
14 paragraph (4); and

15 (D) arranging partnerships in accordance
16 with paragraph (5).

17 (4) SELECTION OF PROJECTS.—The Under
18 Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering
19 shall—

20 (A) identify projects funded, in whole or in
21 part, by the Department of Defense that—

22 (i) have demonstrated a proof-of-con-
23 cept or another similar indicator of early
24 success or feasibility; and

(ii) involve the development of a model, technology, or product at the intersection of artificial intelligence and biotechnology that has potential defense applications, such as a project using artificial intelligence and biological data—

(I) to direct and produce medical countermeasures;

(II) to predict and produce new or enhanced biological materials for military purposes; or

(III) to analyze how biology could fulfill different components of the supply chain, including by improving the domestic supply chain through the use of biomanufacturing; and

(B) from projects identified under subparagraph (A), select projects for further development and testing using the AIxBio sandbox.

(5) PARTNERSHIPS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall establish mechanisms through which organizations and entities involved in projects of the AIxBio sandbox may work with Department of

1 Defense laboratories and Department-funded
2 laboratories of academic institutions to carry
3 out activities in support of such projects, in-
4 cluding biological testing and experimentation
5 and testing and experimentation to validate ar-
6 tificial intelligence models in development.

7 (B) STREAMLINED PROCESSES.—In car-
8 rying out subparagraph (A), the Under Sec-
9 retary shall establish a streamlined processes to
10 facilitate efficient collaboration between labora-
11 tories, organizations of the Department of De-
12 fense, and private entities for purposes of devel-
13 oping products for national security purposes
14 and carrying out activities in support of
15 projects under AIxBio sandbox, including test-
16 ing and experimentation.

17 (6) OTHER ELEMENTS.—The plan shall ad-
18 dress—

19 (A) the manner in which existing com-
20 puting and data storage infrastructure of the
21 Department of Defense shall be made available
22 for the AIxBio sandbox in accordance with
23 paragraph (2);

24 (B) the development of any mechanisms
25 needed to facilitate collaboration among individ-

1 uals and organizations involved in projects
2 under the AIBio sandbox, including any nec-
3 essary agreements concerning intellectual prop-
4 erty, funding, and the transfer of materials or
5 other resources;

6 (C) the process for selecting projects for
7 development and testing using the sandbox in
8 accordance with paragraph (4); and

9 (D) the process for determining the
10 amount of funding needed for projects under
11 the sandbox, including the length of time each
12 project is expected to receive such funding.

13 (c) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—Not later than one year
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under
15 Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering
16 shall—

17 (1) submit to the Committees on Armed Serv-
18 ices of the Senate and the House of Representatives
19 a report that includes the plan developed under sub-
20 section (a); and

21 (2) provide to the Committees a briefing on the
22 plan.

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