

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9729

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the use of autonomous weapons systems and artificial intelligence-enabled systems by the Armed Forces is subject to appropriate levels of human command responsibility, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2026

Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. BARRETT, Ms. JACOBS, and Mrs. FOUSHEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the use of autonomous weapons systems and artificial intelligence-enabled systems by the Armed Forces is subject to appropriate levels of human command responsibility, 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 “Human Authority over
5 Autonomous Weapons Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR HUMAN OVERSIGHT OF USE OF**
2 **AUTONOMOUS AND ARTIFICIAL INTEL-**
3 **LIGENCE-ENABLED WEAPON SYSTEMS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 10, United
5 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 130f
6 the following new section:

7 **“§ 130g. Human oversight of use of autonomous and**
8 **artificial intelligence-enabled weapons**
9 **systems**

10 “(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided by sub-
11 section (b), the Secretary shall require that any use of
12 force by the Armed Forces involving an autonomous weap-
13 ons system or artificial intelligence-enabled system is sub-
14 ject to human command responsibility. The Secretary shall
15 establish procedures to—

16 “(1) identify each human commander or oper-
17 ator responsible for authorizing, supervising, and
18 terminating any such use of force;

19 “(2) ensure human oversight, approval, or a
20 human-in-the-loop for any decision to use such a
21 system for an intentionally lethal purpose; and

22 “(3) for any such use of force during the five-
23 year period beginning on the date of the enactment
24 of this section, ensure that a commander or operator
25 using such a system verifies any target of such sys-

1 tem using a secondary source or data that is not ex-
2 clusively generated by artificial intelligence.

3 “(b) LIMITATION.—The requirement and procedures
4 under subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to—

5 “(1) a United States missile defense system; or

6 “(2) any other defense system designed to
7 intercept, deflect, or engage missiles, munitions, or
8 other weapons when such weapons are used against
9 the United States or the Armed Forces of the
10 United States.

11 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The requirement
12 and procedures under subsection (a) are in addition to,
13 and shall not be construed to replace, the guidance estab-
14 lished pursuant to Department of Defense Directive
15 3000.09 titled ‘Autonomy in Weapon Systems’ (or any
16 successor regulation).

17 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) The term ‘artificial intelligence’ has the
19 meaning given that term in section 5002 of the Na-
20 tional Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020
21 (15 U.S.C. 9401; Public Law 116–283).

22 “(2) The term ‘autonomous weapon system’—

23 “(A) means a weapon system that, once
24 activated, can select and engage targets without
25 further intervention by an operator; and

1 “(B) includes any operator-supervised au-
2 tonomous weapon system that is designed to
3 allow operators to override operation of the
4 weapon system, but can select and engage tar-
5 gets without further operator input after activa-
6 tion.”.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
9 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the
10 Senate and House of Representatives a report on the im-
11 plementation of section 130g of title 10, United States
12 Code, as added by subsection (a). Such report shall in-
13 clude—

14 (1) the procedures established by the Secretary
15 pursuant to subsection (a) of such section; and

16 (2) a description of the extent to which the use
17 of force by the Armed Forces has been prevented or
18 delayed by reason of such procedures or the require-
19 ments of such section.

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