

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9908

To require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2026

Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. SHREVE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, 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 “Rural Hospital Cyber-  
5       security Enhancement Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1           (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the  
2           meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5,  
3           United States Code.

4           (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
5           GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
6           gress” means—

7                   (A) the Committee on Health, Education,  
8                   Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

9                   (B) the Committee on Finance of the Sen-  
10                  ate;

11                  (C) the Committee on Energy and Com-  
12                  merce of the House of Representatives; and

13                  (D) the Committee on Ways and Means of  
14                  the House of Representatives.

15           (3) GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION.—The term “geo-  
16           graphic division” means a geographic division that is  
17           among the 9 geographic divisions determined by the  
18           Bureau of the Census.

19           (4) RURAL HOSPITAL.—The term “rural hos-  
20           pital” means—

21                   (A) a subsection (d) hospital (as defined in  
22                   section 1886(d)(1)(B) of the Social Security  
23                   Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(1)(B))) that—

1 (i) is located in a rural area (as de-  
2 fined in paragraph (2)(D) of section  
3 1886(d) of such Act);

4 (ii) is treated as being located in a  
5 rural area pursuant to paragraph (8)(E) of  
6 such section 1886(d); or

7 (iii) is located in a rural census tract  
8 of a metropolitan statistical area (as deter-  
9 mined under the most recent modification  
10 of the Goldsmith Modification, originally  
11 published in the Federal Register on Feb-  
12 ruary 27, 1992 (57 Fed. Reg. 6725));

13 (B) a critical access hospital (as defined in  
14 section 1861(mm)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
15 1395x(mm)(1)));

16 (C) a sole community hospital (as defined  
17 in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii) of such Act (42  
18 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(D)(iii)));

19 (D) a medicare-dependent, small rural hos-  
20 pital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(G)(iv) of  
21 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395(ww)(d)(5)(G)(iv)));

22 (E) a low-volume hospital (as defined in  
23 section 1886(d)(12)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
24 1395ww(d)(12)(C))); or

1 (F) a rural emergency hospital (as defined  
2 in section 1861(kkk)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
3 1395x(kkk)(2))).

4 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
5 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

6 **SEC. 3. RURAL HOSPITAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE**  
7 **DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop  
10 and transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress  
11 a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce de-  
12 velopment strategy to address the growing need for skilled  
13 cybersecurity professionals in rural hospitals.

14 (b) CONSULTATION.—

15 (1) AGENCIES.—In carrying out subsection (a),  
16 the Secretary shall consult with the Director of the  
17 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency,  
18 the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Labor,  
19 the National Cyber Director, and any other appro-  
20 priate head of an agency.

21 (2) PROVIDERS.—In carrying out subsection  
22 (a), the Secretary shall consult with not fewer than  
23 2 representatives of rural health care providers from  
24 each geographic division in the United States.

1       (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—The rural hospital cybersecu-  
2 rity workforce development strategy developed under sub-  
3 section (a) shall, at a minimum, consider the following  
4 components:

5           (1) Partnerships between rural hospitals, hos-  
6 pitals that are not rural hospitals as defined in sec-  
7 tion 2(4), educational institutions, and private non-  
8 profit or for-profit entities, to develop, promote, and  
9 expand the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce,  
10 including through education and training programs  
11 tailored to the needs of rural hospitals.

12          (2) The development of a cybersecurity cur-  
13 riculum and teaching resources that focus on teach-  
14 ing technical skills and abilities related to cybersecu-  
15 rity in rural hospitals for use in community colleges,  
16 vocational schools, and other educational institutions  
17 located in rural areas.

18          (3) Identification of—

19           (A) cybersecurity workforce challenges of  
20 rural hospitals; and

21           (B) common practices to mitigate the chal-  
22 lenges described in subparagraph (A).

23       (d) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days  
24 after the date on which the first full fiscal year ends fol-  
25 lowing the date on which the Secretary transmits the rural

1 hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy de-  
2 veloped under subsection (a), and not later than 60 days  
3 after the date on which each fiscal year thereafter ends,  
4 the Secretary shall provide a briefing to the appropriate  
5 committees of Congress that includes, at a minimum, in-  
6 formation relating to—

7 (1) updates to the rural hospital cybersecurity  
8 workforce development strategy, as appropriate;

9 (2) any programs or initiatives established pur-  
10 suant to the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce  
11 development strategy, and the number of individuals  
12 trained or educated through such programs or initia-  
13 tives; and

14 (3) the effectiveness of the rural hospital cyber-  
15 security workforce development strategy in address-  
16 ing the need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in  
17 rural hospitals.

18 **SEC. 4. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR RURAL HOS-**  
19 **PITALS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish  
22 on the website of the Department of Health and Human  
23 Services and make available through other appropriate  
24 means, at no cost, instructional materials for rural hos-

1   pitals that can be used to train staff on fundamental cy-  
2   bersecurity efforts.

3           (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Sec-  
4   retary shall—

5           (1) consult with appropriate heads of agencies,  
6           experts in cybersecurity education, and rural health  
7           care experts;

8           (2) identify existing cybersecurity instructional  
9           materials that can be adapted for use in rural hos-  
10          pitals and develop new materials as needed; and

11          (3) conduct an awareness campaign to promote  
12          the materials available to rural hospitals developed  
13          under subsection (a).

14   **SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**

15          No additional funds are authorized to be appro-  
16   priated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

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