

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2600

To require a Defense Science Board study on optimal organizational structure for digital solutions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2025

Mr. ROUNDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require a Defense Science Board study on optimal organizational structure for digital solutions.

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. DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD STUDY ON OPTIMAL**
4 **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR DIGITAL**
5 **ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS.**

6 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense
7 shall direct the Defense Science Board to conduct a com-
8 prehensive study to evaluate and recommend the most op-
9 timal organizational structure within the Office of the Sec-
10 retary of Defense to support digital solutions engineering

1 activities across the Office of the Secretary of Defense and
2 the military departments.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under sub-
4 section (a) shall include the following elements:

5 (1) An assessment of existing organizational
6 structures and organizations supporting digital solu-
7 tions engineering across the Office of the Secretary
8 of Defense and the military departments, includ-
9 ing—

10 (A) current responsibilities, requirements,
11 and deliverables of service-based software deliv-
12 ery organizations;

13 (B) responsibilities or authorities imposed
14 by statutory requirements;

15 (C) limitations based on current enterprise
16 data management platforms;

17 (D) effectiveness and efficiency of current
18 approaches;

19 (E) optimization of resource allocation and
20 utilization processes; and

21 (F) integration challenges and opportuni-
22 ties with Department-wide digital initiatives.

23 (2) An evaluation of potential organizational
24 courses of action for supporting digital solutions en-

1 gineering within the Office of the Secretary of De-
2 fense, including—

3 (A) establishment of a new defense agency
4 or Department of Defense field activity;

5 (B) integration into an existing defense
6 agency or Department of Defense field activity;

7 (C) consolidation of digital development
8 functions within existing Office of the Secretary
9 of Defense staff organizations;

10 (D) optimization of current organizational
11 structures and authorities;

12 (E) hybrid approaches combining elements
13 of the options described in subparagraphs (A),
14 (B), (C), and (D); and

15 (F) any other organizational structures
16 deemed appropriate by the Defense Science
17 Board.

18 (3) Recommendations on the selection of the
19 optimal organizational structure, including—

20 (A) analysis of the advantages and dis-
21 advantages of each course of action evaluated
22 under paragraph (2);

23 (B) assessment of capability requirements
24 and gaps;

1 (C) evaluation of cost-effectiveness and re-
2 source implications;

3 (D) application of lessons from similar in-
4 dustry or academic entities performing similar
5 work;

6 (E) consideration of governance and execu-
7 tion framework requirements;

8 (F) assessment of the implementation of
9 and execution of governance structures, includ-
10 ing artificial intelligence model management;

11 (G) coordination mechanisms with existing
12 Department components and combatant com-
13 mands;

14 (H) recommendations for unique hiring au-
15 thorities to support digital solutions engineering
16 workforce requirements; and

17 (I) recommendations for unique acquisition
18 authorities to support rapid digital solutions en-
19 gineering and deployment.

20 (4) Transition recommendations for imple-
21 menting the selected organizational structure, in-
22 cluding—

23 (A) detailed implementation timeline and
24 milestones;

1 (B) organizational and personnel changes
2 required;

3 (C) resource requirements and funding
4 mechanisms;

5 (D) legislative or regulatory changes need-
6 ed;

7 (E) risk assessment and mitigation strate-
8 gies; and

9 (F) metrics for evaluating implementation
10 success.

11 (c) REPORT.—

12 (1) TRANSMITTAL TO SECRETARY.—Not later
13 than February 1, 2027, the Board shall transmit to
14 the Secretary of Defense a final report on the study
15 conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

16 (2) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later
17 than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary
18 receives the final report under paragraph (1), the
19 Secretary shall submit the report to the congres-
20 sional defense committees, together with such com-
21 ments as the Secretary considers appropriate.

22 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.—
24 The term “congressional defense committees” has

1 the meaning given the term in section 101(a)(16) of
2 title 10, United States Code.

3 (2) DIGITAL SOLUTIONS ENGINEERING.—The
4 term “digital solutions engineering” means the de-
5 velopment, deployment, and sustainment of artificial
6 intelligence systems, software applications, data en-
7 gineering solutions, data analytics platforms, and
8 other digital technologies for operational and busi-
9 ness purposes within the Department of Defense.

10 (3) SOFTWARE DELIVERY ORGANIZATIONS.—
11 The term “software delivery organizations” means
12 organizational units within the military services
13 dedicated to the rapid development, deployment, and
14 sustainment of software applications and digital so-
15 lutions.

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