

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4858

To provide for a National Guard Rural Revival and Modernization Plan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2026

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

A BILL

To provide for a National Guard Rural Revival and
Modernization Plan.

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 “Alaska National Guard
5 Rural Community Revival Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL GUARD RURAL COMMUNITY REVIVAL.**

7 (a) STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN RE-
8 QUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the
9 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army, in co-
10 ordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau,
11 shall develop a comprehensive strategy and roadmap to op-

1 timize Army National Guard readiness, force posture, and
 2 infrastructure in remote or isolated areas to include the
 3 Arctic. The strategy shall take into consideration the pos-
 4 ture and plans of the United States Northern Command
 5 as well as Golden Dome for America in the assessment
 6 and development of the strategy, to ensure infrastructure
 7 investments meet homeland defense requirements and
 8 maximize operational effectiveness. The strategy shall be
 9 known as the “Army National Guard Rural Revival and
 10 Modernization Plan” (referred to in this section as the
 11 “Plan”).

12 (b) ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN.—The Plan required
 13 under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the fol-
 14 lowing:

15 (1) INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW.—A comprehen-
 16 sive audit and assessment of all National Guard ar-
 17 mories, readiness centers, training support centers,
 18 and ranges within remote or isolated areas. The
 19 audit should include an assessment of necessary fa-
 20 cilities improvements and include a plan for—

21 (A) joint-force and extreme-cold-weather
 22 tactical training, including integrated survival,
 23 mobility, logistics, and combat operations spe-
 24 cific to degraded and contested Arctic environ-
 25 ments;

1 (B) forward-operating logistical hubs, cold-
 2 weather equipment staging, and intra-theater
 3 supply-chain distribution points;

4 (C) emergency management, disaster re-
 5 sponse, and homeland defense staging zones;
 6 and

7 (D) communications nodes and remote
 8 command-and-control capabilities.

9 (2) END-STRENGTH AND BILLET OPTIMIZATION
 10 STRATEGY.—A feasible plan to address and fill criti-
 11 cally vacant, unassigned, or under-strength National
 12 Guard billets within the designated regions to meet
 13 increasing operational tempo (OPTEMPO). The op-
 14 timization plan shall include—

15 (A) an analysis of recruitment and reten-
 16 tion barriers unique to rural, isolated, or high-
 17 cost geographic areas;

18 (B) a targeted marketing, recruitment, and
 19 localized incentives framework, including spe-
 20 cialized remote duty allowances, signing bo-
 21 nuses, and educational stipends, designed to
 22 source personnel directly from local and rural
 23 communities; and

24 (C) a potential rotational assignment
 25 framework to temporarily bridge immediate

1 operational readiness gaps while permanent per-
2 sonnel pipelines are materialized to include as-
3 sociated funding.

4 (3) DUAL-USE CENTER MODERNIZATION BLUE-
5 PRINT.—A comprehensive capitalization and mod-
6 ernization plan for existing multi-mission, dual-use
7 facilities. The blueprint shall—

8 (A) identify specific structural and techno-
9 logical upgrades necessary to sustain prolonged,
10 multi-domain operations in austere environ-
11 ments, predicated on a comprehensive cyber-re-
12 silience and vulnerability assessment of the ex-
13 isting operational technology at installations
14 and facilities, with an emphasis on—

15 (i) grid resilience, microgrid integra-
16 tion, and continuous primary power capa-
17 bilities under extreme environmental deg-
18 radation;

19 (ii) communications modernization, in-
20 cluding secure tactical satellite integration
21 and redundant high-latitude network sys-
22 tems;

23 (iii) hangar, maintenance bay, and
24 cold-storage runway and housing upgrades
25 to handle modern tactical, rotary-wing, and

1 autonomous aerial platforms, and per-
2 sonnel; and

3 (iv) dual-use airfield infrastructure re-
4 utilization and expansion of existing run-
5 ways to accommodate modern military and
6 civilian aircraft; and

7 (B) ensure all proposed command and con-
8 trol (C2) and facility infrastructure is engi-
9 neered to operate seamlessly within Denied, De-
10 graded, Intermittent, or Limited environments,
11 incorporating resilient closed and restricted net-
12 work architectures.

13 (c) COMMINGLING AND PRIVATE-SECTOR
14 LEVERAGING PLANNING FRAMEWORK.—In developing the
15 facility expansion and modernization elements of the Plan,
16 the Secretary of the Army shall evaluate and identify op-
17 portunities to leverage enhanced use lease (EUL) authori-
18 ties or enter into public-private partnerships. The Plan
19 shall—

20 (1) include specific strategies to co-locate dual-
21 use commercial, community, or telecommunications
22 infrastructure within National Guard footprints to
23 lower Federal infrastructure cost premiums and en-
24 hance installation resilience; and

1 (2) establish or clarify statutory data-sharing
2 authorities and indemnification for the rapid ex-
3 change of cyber threat intelligence, risk assessments,
4 and incident response data between the Department
5 of Defense and the co-located commercial entities.

6 (d) DIRECT FUNDING AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION
7 THRESHOLD RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Plan shall in-
8 clude an assessment of funding mechanisms and potential
9 legislative adjustments required to execute the infrastruc-
10 ture developments, conversions, and modifications identi-
11 fied under the Plan, including an evaluation of how the
12 Secretary may utilize funds available for unspecified minor
13 military construction under section 2805 of title 10,
14 United States Code.

15 (e) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS AND REPORTING.—

16 (1) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 180
17 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 Secretary of the Army and the Chief of the National
19 Guard Bureau shall provide an interim briefing to
20 the congressional defense committees on the initial
21 findings of the armory audit and the initial per-
22 sonnel recruitment milestones.

23 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Concurrently with the
24 submission of the President’s budget request for the
25 upcoming fiscal year following the completion of the

1 Plan, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the
2 congressional defense committees a formal report de-
3 tailing the finalized strategy.

4 (f) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-
5 FINED.—In this Act, the term “congressional defense
6 committees” has the meaning given the term in section
7 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

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