

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1609

To amend title 10, United States Code, to support meeting the increasing needs of the United States for a cybersecurity and information assurance workforce by reinvigorating and modifying the Information Assurance Scholarship Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2017

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. TED LIEU of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to support meeting the increasing needs of the United States for a cybersecurity and information assurance workforce by reinvigorating and modifying the Information Assurance Scholarship Program of the Department of Defense, 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 “Department of Defense
5 Cyber Scholarship Program Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. REINVIGORATING AND MODIFYING THE INFORMA-**
2 **TION ASSURANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

3 (a) FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

4 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following
5 findings:

6 (A) Cyber threats to United States inter-
7 ests posed by state and non-state actors are
8 growing as the United States becomes increas-
9 ingly reliant on the Internet and cyberspace for
10 critical services.

11 (B) A well-trained workforce is essential to
12 meeting the increasing cybersecurity needs of
13 the United States.

14 (C) The Department of Defense Cyber
15 Strategy, issued in April 2015, cites building
16 the cyber workforce among its objectives for
17 achieving the essential strategic goal of building
18 and maintaining ready forces and capabilities to
19 conduct cyberspace operations.

20 (D) Specifically, the strategy stresses the
21 importance of improving civilian recruitment
22 and retention for fulfilling the cyber missions of
23 the Department of Defense.

24 (E) Many community colleges offer degrees
25 or industry-recognized credentials in cybersecu-

1 rity and related fields that prepare students to
2 fill high demand cybersecurity jobs.

3 (F) The Information Assurance Scholar-
4 ship Program of the Department of Defense
5 and the National Security Agency promotes re-
6 cruitment, education, and retention of cyberse-
7 curity professionals.

8 (G) Since 2001, the Information Assurance
9 Scholarship Program has supported individuals
10 pursuing cybersecurity education and training
11 in exchange for government service.

12 (H) Since 2013, budgetary considerations
13 have resulted in reductions to funding for Infor-
14 mation Assurance Scholarship Program.

15 (I) The efforts of the Department of De-
16 fense to build a cybersecurity workforce capable
17 of defending against and responding to cyber
18 threats should include reinvigorating the Infor-
19 mation Assurance Scholarship Program and
20 supporting cybersecurity degree programs at
21 United States educational institutions.

22 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
23 Congress that the Secretary of Defense should—

24 (A) consider the Information Assurance
25 Scholarship Program to be a critical cybersecu-

1 rity effort of the Chief Information Officer of
2 the Department of Defense;

3 (B) continue to support programs at 2-
4 year institutions of higher education that help
5 students develop skills necessary to support the
6 cybersecurity missions of the United States;
7 and

8 (C) restore funding to the program to re-
9 cruit and retain new scholarship recipients and
10 build capacity at institutions of higher edu-
11 cation.

12 (b) MODIFICATION OF INFORMATION ASSURANCE
13 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—

14 (1) DESIGNATION OF PROGRAM.—Section
15 2200a of title 10, United States Code, is amended
16 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

17 “(h) DESIGNATION OF PROGRAM.—A program under
18 which the Secretary provides financial assistance under
19 subsection (a) of this section and grants under section
20 2200b of this title shall be known as the ‘Department of
21 Defense Cyber Scholarship Program’.”.

22 (2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Subsection (f)
23 of such section is amended—

24 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “Not less”;
25 and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(2) Not less than five percent of the amount avail-
4 able for financial assistance under this section for a fiscal
5 year shall be available for providing financial assistance
6 for the pursuit of an associate degree.”.

7 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Defense
9 to provide financial assistance under section 2200a of such
10 title, as amended by subsection (b), and grants under sec-
11 tion 2200b of such title, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2018.

12 (d) REINVIGORATION PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later
13 than September 30, 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall
14 submit to the congressional defense committees (as de-
15 fined in section 101(a) of such title) a plan for reinvigo-
16 rating the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Pro-
17 gram, as designated by section 2200a(h) of such title, as
18 added by subsection (b)(1) of this section.

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