

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1271

To provide for pilot programs to streamline decision-making process for weapon systems.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 1, 2019

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

A BILL

To provide for pilot programs to streamline decision-making process for weapon systems.

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 “Defense Acquisition
5 Decision Making Streamlining Act of 2019”.

6 SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAMS TO STREAMLINE DECISION-MAK-

7 ING PROCESS FOR WEAPON SYSTEMS.

8 (a) CANDIDATE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, each Service

1 Acquisition Executive shall recommend to the Sec-
2 retary of Defense at least one major defense acquisi-
3 tion program for a “skunk works” pilot program as
4 described in the Department of Defense’s Better
5 Buying Power 3.0 memorandum. Each pilot pro-
6 gram should include tailored measures to streamline
7 the entire milestone decision process, with the re-
8 sults evaluated and reported for potential wider use.

9 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each pilot program selected
10 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
11 lowing elements:

12 (A) Delineating the appropriate informa-
13 tion needed to support milestone decisions, as-
14 suring program accountability and oversight,
15 which should be based on the business case
16 principles needed for well-informed milestone
17 decisions, including user-defined requirements,
18 reasonable acquisition and life-cycle cost esti-
19 mates, and a knowledge-based acquisition plan
20 for maturing technologies, stabilizing the pro-
21 gram design, and ensuring key manufacturing
22 processes are in control.

23 (B) Developing an efficient process for
24 providing this information to the milestone deci-
25 sion authority by—

1 (i) minimizing any reviews between
2 the program office and the different func-
3 tional staff offices within each chain of
4 command level; and

5 (ii) establishing frequent, regular
6 interaction between the program office and
7 milestone decision makers, in lieu of docu-
8 mentation reviews, to help expedite the
9 process.

10 (b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary
12 of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall provide
13 to the congressional defense committees an informal brief-
14 ing detailing—

15 (1) the acquisition programs selected pursuant
16 to subsection (a);

17 (2) the associated action plans, including
18 timelines, for each program; and

19 (3) the manner in which each program con-
20 forms to the requirements set forth in subsection
21 (a)(2).

22 (c) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-
23 FINED.—In this section, the term “congressional defense

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

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