

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4359

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force to identify vulnerabilities in supply chains for United States entities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2020

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force to identify vulnerabilities in supply chains for United States entities, 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 “Resilient Manufac-
5 turing Task Force Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. RESILIENT MANUFACTURING TASK FORCE.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

8 (1) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
9 of Commerce;

1 (2) the term “supply chain bottleneck” means
2 a limitation in a production value chain that re-
3 stricts the overall speed or reliability of the manu-
4 facturing process;

5 (3) the term “Task Force” means the Resilient
6 Manufacturing Task Force established under sub-
7 section (c)(1); and

8 (4) the term “veteran” has the meaning given
9 the term in section 101 of title 38, United States
10 Code.

11 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that—

13 (1) the COVID–19 pandemic has—

14 (A) exposed significant vulnerabilities in
15 the manufacturing sector of the economy of the
16 United States; and

17 (B) led to equipment shortages, supply
18 chain bottlenecks, and workforce misalignments;

19 (2) the vulnerabilities described in paragraph
20 (1) go largely unnoticed until they are revealed by
21 disease outbreaks, cyber attacks, natural disasters,
22 and other emergencies;

23 (3) the crises described in paragraph (2)
24 produce valuable information, the collection and
25 analysis of which can inform policies to fortify the

1 economy of the United States against future threats;
2 and

3 (4) the responsibility for promoting national
4 economic resilience lies with the Federal Govern-
5 ment, which must not miss the opportunity pre-
6 sented by the COVID–19 pandemic to learn from
7 that crisis and prepare the United States to better
8 withstand future emergencies.

9 (c) RESILIENT MANUFACTURING TASK FORCE.—

10 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary, in coordination with the Secretary of
14 Defense, the Secretary of Energy, and the
15 heads of any other Federal agencies that the
16 Secretary determines appropriate, shall estab-
17 lish the Resilient Manufacturing Task Force.

18 (B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SEC-
19 RETARY.—In carrying out subparagraph (A),
20 the Secretary, in coordination with the officials
21 described in that subparagraph, shall—

22 (i) determine—

23 (I) the number of members who
24 shall comprise the Task Force; and

- 1 (II) the qualifications of the
2 members described in subclause (I);
3 (ii) appoint the members of the Task
4 Force; and
5 (iii) establish procedures regarding
6 the operation of the Task Force, including
7 by determining the frequency with which
8 the Task Force shall meet.

9 (2) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force
10 shall be the following:

11 (A) To identify critical vulnerabilities in
12 the supply chains of products and resources
13 that are essential to the economic security of
14 the United States, focusing in particular on
15 vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated by
16 the COVID–19 pandemic.

17 (B) To mitigate the vulnerabilities de-
18 scribed in subparagraph (A) by developing
19 plans for the following:

20 (i) The formation of a National Man-
21 ufacturing Guard, which shall be a reserve
22 of industry volunteers who are trained and
23 empowered to, in times of crisis, help man-
24 age manufacturing supply chains, logistics
25 infrastructure, and workforce resources.

1 (ii) The establishment of a Supply
2 Chain Data Exchange, which shall support
3 the National Manufacturing Guard de-
4 scribed in clause (i) by providing real-time,
5 centralized information on a national scale
6 regarding, with respect to manufacturing
7 supply chains, inventory, capacity, re-
8 sources, and supply chain bottlenecks.

9 (iii) The formation of a Technology
10 Corps to serve as a workforce pipeline that
11 prioritizes manufacturing skills that the
12 Task Force and the National Manufac-
13 turing Guard described in clause (i) deter-
14 mine to be essential to the economic secu-
15 rity of the United States.

16 (C) In carrying out subparagraph (B)(iii),
17 to pay particular attention to increasing edu-
18 cational and training opportunities for under-
19 represented minorities, women, and veterans.

20 (3) ADVICE.—In carrying out the duties of the
21 Task Force, the Task Force shall seek to obtain ex-
22 pertise from the public and private sectors, including
23 from—

24 (A) manufacturing extension centers cre-
25 ated and supported under the Hollings Manu-

1 facturing Extension Partnership established
2 under section 25 of the National Institute of
3 Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C.
4 278k);

5 (B) industry consortia and trade groups;

6 (C) private business entities, including
7 small manufacturers;

8 (D) Federal, State, and local government
9 specialists, including economic policymakers and
10 military logistics experts;

11 (E) academic and research institutions;

12 (F) labor organizations; and

13 (G) manufacturing USA institutes de-
14 scribed in section 34(d) of the National Insti-
15 tute of Standards and Technology Act (15
16 U.S.C. 278s(d)).

17 (4) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall ter-
18 minate on the date that is 1 year after the date on
19 which the Secretary establishes the Task Force
20 under paragraph (1).

21 (5) APPLICABILITY.—The Federal Advisory
22 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply with
23 respect to the Task Force or the activities of the
24 Task Force.

1 (d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
2 shall—

3 (1) not later than 90 days after the date of en-
4 actment of this Act, submit to Congress a report re-
5 garding the formation of the Task Force, which
6 shall contain—

7 (A) an identification of the members of the
8 Task Force, the respective areas of expertise of
9 those members, and the expected roles of those
10 members; and

11 (B) a preliminary plan for carrying out the
12 duties of the Task Force, including forecasts
13 for costs, a preliminary timeline with respect to
14 the activities of the Task Force, and the ex-
15 pected resource needs of the Task Force; and

16 (2) not later than 90 days after the date on
17 which the Task Force terminates, submit to Con-
18 gress a report containing—

19 (A) a description of the activities of the
20 Task Force during the 1-year period in which
21 the Task Force was in effect;

22 (B) a comprehensive description of how the
23 Task Force carried out the duties of the Task
24 Force described in subsection (c)(2), which

1 shall include any related policy recommenda-
2 tions;

3 (C) a recommendation regarding whether
4 Congress should establish a Resilient Manufac-
5 turing Advisory Council to continue the role of
6 the Task Force on an extended or permanent
7 basis; and

8 (D) if applicable, a proposal outlining, with
9 respect to the Council described in subpara-
10 graph (C)—

11 (i) the scope and activities of the
12 Council; and

13 (ii) the funding and resource require-
14 ments of the Council.

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
17 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to carry out this section,
18 which shall remain available until expended.

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