

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8746

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to develop a training program that teaches members of the Armed Forces to interact with digital information in a safe and responsible manner, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2024

Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Ms. SLOTKIN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to develop a training program that teaches members of the Armed Forces to interact with digital information in a safe and responsible manner, 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 “The Strategic Home-
5 land Information Education and Learning Defense Act of
6 2024” or the “SHIELD Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM FOR DIGITAL INFORMATION**
2 **TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
3 **FORCES.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 120 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
6 Defense shall establish a pilot program (in this section re-
7 ferred to as the “pilot program”) to develop a training
8 program that teaches members of the Armed Forces to
9 interact with digital information in a safe and responsible
10 manner.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program,
12 the Secretary shall—

13 (1) develop and carry out a curriculum that in-
14 cludes instruction on—

15 (A) how to identify—

16 (i) fact-based journalism;

17 (ii) opinion-based journalism;

18 (iii) disinformation;

19 (iv) conspiracy theories; and

20 (v) hate-based ideologies, including
21 antisemitism and white supremacy;

22 (B) how to assess the credibility of digital
23 news and other digital sources of information;

24 (C) the effects of online actions on the
25 actor and others, including the effects of post-

1 ing or sharing personal, incorrect, or bias-based
2 information;

3 (D) the importance of protecting personal
4 information and how to protect personal infor-
5 mation with respect to online activities;

6 (E) how to recognize and avoid common
7 information-based threats that could harm—

8 (i) an individual targeted by such
9 threats;

10 (ii) the property of the individual; or

11 (iii) the security, property, or goals of
12 the Department of Defense when the indi-
13 vidual is a member of the Armed Forces;
14 and

15 (F) in the case that the individual is a
16 member of the Armed Forces, methodologies—

17 (i) that the individual can use when
18 locating, evaluating, and using digital in-
19 formation; and

20 (ii) which are designed reduce insider
21 threats to, and vulnerabilities of, the
22 Armed Forces with respect to conspiracy
23 theories and hate-based ideology;

24 (2) select as participants a geographically and
25 demographically diverse sample of members of the

1 Armed Forces in such number as is necessary to col-
2 lect meaningful feedback about the training pro-
3 gram; and

4 (3) use in-person, virtual, and hybrid training
5 delivery methods in equal amounts.

6 (c) TERMINATION.—The authority of Secretary to
7 carry out the pilot program shall terminate on the date
8 that is one year after the date on which the pilot program
9 begins.

10 (d) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
11 gram, the Secretary may consult with organizations that
12 specialize in teaching or providing information to individ-
13 uals about interacting with digital information in a safe
14 and responsible manner.

15 (e) SURVEY.—After the date on which the pilot pro-
16 gram terminates pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary
17 shall survey participants and instructors to identify—

18 (1) ways to improve the training program and
19 curriculum;

20 (2) ways to improve participant engagement
21 during the training program; and

22 (3) the extent to which participants retained,
23 over time, the information taught during the train-
24 ing program.

1 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the ter-
2 mination of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit
3 to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and
4 the House of Representatives a report summarizing the
5 results of the pilot program, including—

6 (1) a comparison of the in-person, virtual, and
7 hybrid training delivery methods, considering—

8 (A) the engagement of participants during
9 the training program;

10 (B) the extent to which participants re-
11 tained, over time, the information taught dur-
12 ing the training program; and

13 (C) other notable differences, as deter-
14 mined by the Secretary;

15 (2) a determination, based on such comparison,
16 about which training delivery method is most effec-
17 tive for teaching the curriculum developed under
18 subsection (b)(1);

19 (3) a recommendation about how often a mem-
20 ber of the Armed Forces should be required to at-
21 tend a permanent training program about inter-
22 acting with digital information in a safe and respon-
23 sible manner, if established, considering the extent
24 to which participants of the pilot program retained
25 information taught during the training program; and

- 1 (4) a recommendation about how often the cur-
- 2 riculum of any such permanent training program
- 3 should be updated.

