

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5466

To authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish a National Security and Defense Artificial Intelligence Institute, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. FALLON, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish a National Security and Defense Artificial Intelligence Institute, 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 “Growing University
5 AI Research for Defense Act” or the “GUARD Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE ARTIFICIAL IN-**
7 **TELLIGENCE INSTITUTE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may es-
9 tablish at least one National Security and Defense Artifi-

1 cial Intelligence Institute (referred to in this section as
2 an “Institute”) at an eligible host institution.

3 (b) INSTITUTE DESCRIBED.—A National Security
4 and Defense Artificial Intelligence Institute referred to in
5 subsection (a) is an artificial intelligence research institute
6 that—

7 (1) is focused on a cross-cutting challenge or
8 foundational science for artificial intelligence sys-
9 tems in the national security and defense sector;

10 (2) establishes partnerships among public and
11 private organizations, including, as appropriate,
12 Federal agencies, institutions of higher education,
13 including community colleges, nonprofit research or-
14 ganizations, Federal laboratories, State, local, and
15 Tribal governments, and industry, including the De-
16 fense Industrial Base and startup companies;

17 (3) has the potential to create an innovation
18 ecosystem, or enhance existing ecosystems, to trans-
19 late Institute research into applications and products
20 used to enhance national security and defense capa-
21 bilities;

22 (4) supports interdisciplinary research and de-
23 velopment across multiple institutions of higher edu-
24 cation and organizations; and

1 (5) supports workforce development in artificial
2 intelligence related disciplines in the United States.

3 (c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
5 may seek to award financial assistance to an eligible
6 host institution, or consortia thereof, to establish
7 and support one or more Institutes.

8 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Financial assistance
9 awarded under paragraph (1) may be used by an In-
10 stitute for—

11 (A) managing and making available to re-
12 searchers accessible, curated, standardized, se-
13 cure, and privacy protected data sets from the
14 public and private sectors for the purposes of
15 training and testing artificial intelligence sys-
16 tems and for research using artificial intel-
17 ligence systems with regard to national security
18 and defense;

19 (B) developing and managing testbeds for
20 artificial intelligence systems, including sector-
21 specific test beds, designed to enable users to
22 evaluate artificial intelligence systems prior to
23 deployment;

24 (C) conducting research and education ac-
25 tivities involving artificial intelligence systems

1 to solve challenges with national security impli-
2 cations;

3 (D) providing or brokering access to com-
4 puting resources, networking, and data facilities
5 for artificial intelligence research and develop-
6 ment relevant to the Institute's research goals;

7 (E) providing technical assistance to users,
8 including software engineering support, for arti-
9 ficial intelligence research and development rel-
10 evant to the Institute's research goals;

11 (F) engaging in outreach and engagement
12 to broaden participation in artificial intelligence
13 research and the artificial intelligence work-
14 force; and

15 (G) such other activities as may deter-
16 mined by the Secretary of Defense.

17 (3) DURATION.—Financial assistance under
18 paragraph (1) shall be awarded for a five-year pe-
19 riod, and may be renewed for not more than one ad-
20 ditional five-year period.

21 (4) APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSIST-
22 ANCE.—A eligible host institution or consortia there-
23 of seeking financial assistance under paragraph (1)
24 shall submit to the Secretary of Defense an applica-

1 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing
2 such information as the Secretary may require.

3 (5) COMPETITIVE, MERIT REVIEW.—In award-
4 ing financial assistance under paragraph (1), the
5 Secretary of Defense shall use a competitive, merit-
6 based review process.

7 (6) COLLABORATION.—In awarding financial
8 assistance under paragraph (1), the Secretary of De-
9 fense may collaborate other departments and agen-
10 cies of the Federal Government with missions that
11 relate to or have the potential to be affected by the
12 national security implications of artificial intelligence
13 systems.

14 (7) LIMITATION.—No financial assistance au-
15 thorized in this section shall be awarded to an entity
16 outside of the United States. All recipients of finan-
17 cial assistance under this section, including sub-
18 grantees, shall be based in the United States and
19 shall meet such other eligibility criteria as may be
20 established by the Secretary of Defense.

21 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “eligible
22 host institution” means a senior military college (as de-
23 fined in section 2111a(f) of title 10, United States Code).

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