

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3504

To establish a course of education and pilot program on authentication of digital content provenance for certain Department of Defense media content, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 2023

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

A BILL

To establish a course of education and pilot program on authentication of digital content provenance for certain Department of Defense media content, 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 “Digital Defense Con-
5 tent Provenance Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. COURSE OF EDUCATION AND PILOT PROGRAM ON**
2 **AUTHENTICATION OF DIGITAL CONTENT**
3 **PROVENANCE FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENT**
4 **OF DEFENSE MEDIA CONTENT.**

5 (a) COURSE OF EDUCATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
8 retary of Defense, acting through the Director of the
9 Defense Media Activity, shall establish a course of
10 education at the Defense Information School, the
11 purpose of which shall be to provide instruction on
12 the practical concepts and skills needed by public af-
13 fairs, audiovisual, visual information, and records
14 management specialists to understand the following:

15 (A) Digital content provenance for applica-
16 ble Department media content.

17 (B) The challenges posed to missions and
18 operations of the Department by a digital con-
19 tent forgery.

20 (C) How industry open technical standards
21 may be used to authenticate the digital content
22 provenance of applicable Department media
23 content.

24 (2) MATTERS.—The course of education under
25 paragraph (1) shall cover the following matters:

1 (A) The challenges to missions and oper-
2 ations of the Department posed by a digital
3 content forgery.

4 (B) The development of industry open
5 technical standards for authenticating the dig-
6 ital content provenance of applicable Depart-
7 ment media content.

8 (C) Hands-on training on techniques to
9 record secure and authenticated digital content
10 to document and communicate relevant themes
11 and messages of the Department.

12 (D) Training on—

13 (i) the use of industry open technical
14 standards for authenticating digital con-
15 tent provenance in the completion of post-
16 production tasks; and

17 (ii) the transmission of applicable De-
18 partment media content in both oper-
19 ational and nonoperational environments.

20 (E) Such other matters as the Director of
21 the Defense Media Activity considers appro-
22 priate.

23 (3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
24 date of the establishment of the course of education
25 under paragraph (1), the Director of the Defense

1 Media Activity shall submit to the Committees on
2 Armed Services of the House of Representatives and
3 the Senate a report on the following:

4 (A) The status of the development of a
5 curriculum for such course of education.

6 (B) The implementation plan of the Direc-
7 tor for such course of education, including the
8 following:

9 (i) The expertise and qualifications of
10 the personnel of the Department respon-
11 sible for teaching such course of education.

12 (ii) The list of sources consulted or
13 otherwise used to develop the curriculum
14 for such course of education.

15 (iii) A description of the industry open
16 technical standards referred to in para-
17 graph (1)(C).

18 (iv) The status of the implementation
19 of such course of education.

20 (C) The resources available to the Director
21 to carry out this subsection and whether the
22 Director requires any additional resources to
23 carry out this subsection.

24 (b) PILOT PROGRAM ON IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL
25 CONTENT PROVENANCE STANDARDS.—

1 (1) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than one year
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-
3 rector of the Defense Media Activity shall carry out
4 a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advis-
5 ability of implementing industry open technical
6 standards for digital content provenance for official
7 photographs and videos of the Department of De-
8 fense publicly released by the Defense Visual Infor-
9 mation Distribution Service, or any successor oper-
10 ation, and other distribution platforms, systems, and
11 services used by the Department of Defense (in this
12 subsection referred to as the “pilot program”).

13 (2) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
14 gram, the Director of the Defense Media Activity
15 shall—

16 (A) establish a process for using industry
17 open technical standards to verify the digital
18 content provenance of applicable Department
19 media content;

20 (B) apply technology solutions that com-
21 port with industry open technical standard for
22 digital content provenance to photographs and
23 videos of the Department publicly released as
24 described in paragraph (1) after the date of the
25 enactment of this Act;

1 (C) assess the feasibility and advisability of
2 applying an industry open technical standard
3 for digital content provenance to historical vis-
4 ual information records of the Department
5 stored at the Defense Visual Information
6 Records Center; and

7 (D) develop and apply measure of effec-
8 tiveness for the implementation of the pilot pro-
9 gram.

10 (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the pilot
11 program, the Director of the Defense Media Activity
12 may consult with federally funded research and de-
13 velopment centers, entities within private industry,
14 institutions of higher education, and such other enti-
15 ties as the Director considers appropriate.

16 (4) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall
17 terminate on January 1, 2027.

18 (5) REPORT.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January
20 1, 2026, the Director of the Defense Media Ac-
21 tivity shall submit to the Committees on Armed
22 Services of the House of Representatives and
23 the Senate a report on the pilot program.

24 (B) ELEMENTS.—The report under sub-
25 paragraph (A) shall include the following:

1 (i) The findings of the Director with
2 respect to the pilot program.

3 (ii) The name of each entity the Di-
4 rector consulted with pursuant to para-
5 graph (3) in carrying out the pilot pro-
6 gram.

7 (iii) An assessment by the Director of
8 the effectiveness of the pilot program.

9 (iv) A recommendation by the Direc-
10 tor as to whether the pilot program should
11 be made permanent.

12 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) The term “applicable Department media
14 content” means any media holding generated,
15 stored, or controlled by the Defense Media Activity.

16 (2) The term “digital content forgery” means
17 the use of emerging technologies, including artificial
18 intelligence and machine learning techniques, to fab-
19 ricate or manipulate audio, visual, or text content
20 with the intent to mislead.

21 (3) The term “digital content provenance”
22 means the verifiable chronology of the origin and
23 history of an image, video, audio recording, elec-
24 tronic document, or other form of digital content.

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