

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 171

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. BALDERSON) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## 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 2021”.

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 the period of fiscal years 2021 through  
18 2022 to carry out this section, which shall remain avail-  
19 able until expended.

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