

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4387

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program providing for the establishment of Agriculture Cybersecurity Centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program providing for the establishment of Agriculture Cybersecurity Centers, 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 “Cybersecurity in Agri-
5 culture Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. AGRICULTURE CYBERSECURITY CENTERS.**

2 Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
3 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319
4 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 1473I. AGRICULTURE CYBERSECURITY CENTERS.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
7 the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agri-
8 culture, and in consultation with the Secretary of Home-
9 land Security, shall establish a program under which the
10 Secretary will—

11 “(1) on a competitive basis, award grants to, or
12 enter into cooperative agreements with, eligible enti-
13 ties to establish 5 Regional Agriculture Cybersecu-
14 rity Centers to carry out research, development, and
15 education on agriculture cybersecurity, with respect
16 to seed agriculture, horticulture, animal agriculture,
17 and the agriculture supply chain;

18 “(2) establish a national network of such Re-
19 gional Agricultural Cybersecurity Centers; and

20 “(3) designate one college or university to co-
21 ordinate the activities of such national network.

22 “(b) DUTIES.—A Regional Agriculture Cybersecurity
23 Center shall—

24 “(1) conduct research on cybersecurity systems
25 for the agriculture sector, including developing cy-

1 bersecurity situational awareness systems to monitor
2 cybersecurity threats, intrusions, and anomalies;

3 “(2) develop a security operations center for the
4 agriculture sector to analyze cybersecurity threats,
5 intrusions, and anomalies and to recommend mitiga-
6 tion actions;

7 “(3) develop cybersecurity technologies and
8 tools for the agricultural sector, including domain-
9 specific intrusion and anomaly detection systems,
10 domain-specific intrusion prevention systems, do-
11 main specific role-based access control and user au-
12 thentication systems, lightweight device authentica-
13 tion protocols, and secure network architectures;

14 “(4) build live cybersecurity testbeds to assess
15 and refine cybersecurity technologies, tools, and sys-
16 tems developed for the agricultural sector;

17 “(5) conduct attack/defense exercises to validate
18 and evaluate cybersecurity solutions for field deploy-
19 ment and agriculture industry adoption;

20 “(6) develop cybersecurity education and train-
21 ing programs for agricultural stakeholders;

22 “(7) conduct cybersecurity training using the
23 testbeds referred to in paragraph (4); and

24 “(8) build a regional research and development
25 collaboration network.

1 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term
2 ‘eligible entity’ means a college or university that has pro-
3 grams in food and agriculture sciences and cybersecurity
4 that coordinates regional industry partners, cooperatives,
5 government authorities and other stakeholders to
6 strengthen security, privacy and resiliency, bolster the
7 independent networks, and develop a skilled workforce.

8 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

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