

Calendar No. 381

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1560

[Report No. 118–170]

To require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2023

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

MAY 9, 2024

Reported by Mr. PETERS, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, 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 “Rural Hospital Cyber-~~
5 ~~security Enhancement Act”.~~

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-**
4 **GRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Con-

5 gress” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
7 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

8 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
9 of the House of Representatives.

10 (2) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means
11 the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure
12 Security Agency.

13 (3) **RURAL HOSPITAL.**—The term “rural hos-

14 pital” means a healthcare facility that—

15 (A) is located in a non-urbanized area; as
16 determined by the Bureau of the Census; and

17 (B) provides inpatient and outpatient
18 healthcare services, including primary care,
19 emergency care, and diagnostic services.

20 (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

22 **SEC. 3. RURAL HOSPITAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE**
23 **DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.**

24 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
26 through the Director, shall develop and transmit to the

1 appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive rural
2 hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy to
3 address the growing need for skilled cybersecurity profes-
4 sionals in rural hospitals.

5 (b) CONSULTATION.—

6 (1) AGENCIES.—In carrying out subsection (a),
7 the Secretary and Director may consult with the
8 Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Sec-
9 retary of Education, and the Secretary of Labor.

10 (2) PROVIDERS.—In carrying out subsection
11 (a), the Secretary shall consult with rural healthcare
12 providers from each geographic region in the United
13 States.

14 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—The rural hospital cybersecu-
15 rity workforce development strategy developed under sub-
16 section (a) shall, at a minimum, consider the following
17 components:

18 (1) Partnerships between rural hospitals, edu-
19 cational institutions, private sector entities, and non-
20 profit organizations to develop, promote, and expand
21 cybersecurity education and training programs tai-
22 lored to the needs of rural hospitals.

23 (2) The development of a cybersecurity cur-
24 riculum and teaching resources that focus on teach-
25 ing technical skills and abilities related to cybersecu-

1 rity in rural hospitals for use in community colleges,
2 vocational schools, and other educational institutions
3 located in rural areas.

4 (3) Recommendations for legislation, rule-
5 making, or guidance to implement the components
6 of the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce develop-
7 ment strategy.

8 (d) ANNUAL REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after
9 the date on which the first full fiscal year ends following
10 the date on which the Secretary transmits the rural hos-
11 pital cybersecurity workforce development strategy devel-
12 oped under subsection (a), and not later than 60 days
13 after the date on which each fiscal year thereafter ends,
14 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees
15 of Congress a report that includes, at a minimum, infor-
16 mation relating to—

17 (1) updates to the rural hospital cybersecurity
18 workforce development strategy, as appropriate;

19 (2) any programs or initiatives established pur-
20 suant to the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce
21 development strategy, as well as the number of indi-
22 viduals trained or educated through such programs
23 or initiatives;

24 (3) additional recommendations for legislation,
25 rulemaking, or guidance to implement the compo-

1 nents of the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce
2 development strategy; and

3 ~~(4) the effectiveness of the rural hospital cyber-~~
4 ~~security workforce development strategy in address-~~
5 ~~ing the need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in~~
6 ~~rural hospitals.~~

7 **SEC. 4. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR RURAL HOS-**
8 **PITALS.**

9 (a) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—Not later than 1 year after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall make
11 available instructional materials for rural hospitals that
12 can be used to train staff on fundamental cybersecurity
13 efforts.

14 (b) ~~DUTIES.~~—In carrying out subsection (a), the Di-
15 rector shall—

16 ~~(1) consult with experts in cybersecurity edu-~~
17 ~~cation and rural healthcare experts;~~

18 ~~(2) identify existing cybersecurity instructional~~
19 ~~materials that can be adapted for use in rural hos-~~
20 ~~pitals and create new materials as needed; and~~

21 ~~(3) conduct an awareness campaign to promote~~
22 ~~the materials available to rural hospitals developed~~
23 ~~under subsection (a).~~

1 **SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION.**

2 ~~Any action undertaken pursuant to this Act shall not~~
3 ~~be subject to chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code.~~

4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

5 *This Act may be cited as the “Rural Hospital Cyberse-*
6 *curity Enhancement Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 *In this Act:*

9 (1) *AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the mean-*
10 *ing given the term in section 551 of title 5, United*
11 *States Code.*

12 (2) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—*
13 *The term “appropriate committees of Congress”*
14 *means—*

15 (A) *the Committee on Homeland Security*
16 *and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and*

17 (B) *the Committee on Homeland Security of*
18 *the House of Representatives.*

19 (3) *DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the*
20 *Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Se-*
21 *curity Agency.*

22 (4) *GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION.—The term “geo-*
23 *graphic division” means a geographic division that is*
24 *among the 9 geographic divisions determined by the*
25 *Bureau of the Census.*

1 (5) *RURAL HOSPITAL*.—The term “rural hos-
2 pital” means a healthcare facility that—

3 (A) is located in a non-urbanized area, as
4 determined by the Bureau of the Census; and

5 (B) provides inpatient and outpatient
6 healthcare services, including primary care,
7 emergency care, and diagnostic services.

8 (6) *SECRETARY*.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

10 **SEC. 3. RURAL HOSPITAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE DE-**
11 **VELOPMENT STRATEGY.**

12 (a) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than 1 year after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the
14 Director, shall develop and transmit to the appropriate
15 committees of Congress a comprehensive rural hospital cy-
16 bersecurity workforce development strategy to address the
17 growing need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in rural
18 hospitals.

19 (b) *CONSULTATION*.—

20 (1) *AGENCIES*.—In carrying out subsection (a),
21 the Secretary and Director may consult with the Sec-
22 retary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary
23 of Education, the Secretary of Labor, and any other
24 appropriate head of an agency.

1 (2) *PROVIDERS.*—*In carrying out subsection (a),*
2 *the Secretary shall consult with not less than 2 rep-*
3 *resentatives of rural healthcare providers from each*
4 *geographic division in the United States.*

5 (3) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—*The rural hospital cybersecu-*
6 *rity workforce development strategy developed under sub-*
7 *section (a) shall, at a minimum, consider the following com-*
8 *ponents:*

9 (1) *Partnerships between rural hospitals, non-*
10 *rural healthcare systems, educational institutions,*
11 *private sector entities, and nonprofit organizations to*
12 *develop, promote, and expand the rural hospital cy-*
13 *bersecurity workforce, including through education*
14 *and training programs tailored to the needs of rural*
15 *hospitals.*

16 (2) *The development of a cybersecurity cur-*
17 *riculum and teaching resources that focus on teaching*
18 *technical skills and abilities related to cybersecurity*
19 *in rural hospitals for use in community colleges, vo-*
20 *ccational schools, and other educational institutions lo-*
21 *cated in rural areas.*

22 (3) *Identification of—*

23 (A) *cybersecurity workforce challenges that*
24 *are specific to rural hospitals, as well as chal-*

1 *lenges that are relative to hospitals generally;*
2 *and*

3 *(B) common practices to mitigate both sets*
4 *of challenges described in subparagraph (A).*

5 *(4) Recommendations for legislation, rule-*
6 *making, or guidance to implement the components of*
7 *the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce develop-*
8 *ment strategy.*

9 *(d) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after*
10 *the date on which the first full fiscal year ends following*
11 *the date on which the Secretary transmits the rural hospital*
12 *cybersecurity workforce development strategy developed*
13 *under subsection (a), and not later than 60 days after the*
14 *date on which each fiscal year thereafter ends, the Secretary*
15 *shall provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of*
16 *Congress that includes, at a minimum, information relat-*
17 *ing to—*

18 *(1) updates to the rural hospital cybersecurity*
19 *workforce development strategy, as appropriate;*

20 *(2) any programs or initiatives established pur-*
21 *suant to the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce de-*
22 *velopment strategy, as well as the number of individ-*
23 *uals trained or educated through such programs or*
24 *initiatives;*

1 (3) *additional recommendations for legislation,*
2 *rulemaking, or guidance to implement the components*
3 *of the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce develop-*
4 *ment strategy; and*

5 (4) *the effectiveness of the rural hospital cyberse-*
6 *curity workforce development strategy in addressing*
7 *the need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in*
8 *rural hospitals.*

9 **SEC. 4. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR RURAL HOS-**
10 **PITALS.**

11 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date*
12 *of enactment of this Act, the Director shall make available*
13 *instructional materials for rural hospitals that can be used*
14 *to train staff on fundamental cybersecurity efforts.*

15 (b) *DUTIES.*—*In carrying out subsection (a), the Di-*
16 *rector shall—*

17 (1) *consult with appropriate heads of agencies,*
18 *experts in cybersecurity education, and rural*
19 *healthcare experts;*

20 (2) *identify existing cybersecurity instructional*
21 *materials that can be adapted for use in rural hos-*
22 *pitals and create new materials as needed; and*

23 (3) *conduct an awareness campaign to promote*
24 *the materials available to rural hospitals developed*
25 *under subsection (a).*

1 **SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**

2 *No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated*

3 *for the purpose of carrying out this Act.*

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