

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2904

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish performance objectives and accompanying metrics for the incorporation of artificial intelligence and digital readiness into Department of Defense platforms, processes, and operations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to establish performance objectives and accompanying metrics for the incorporation of artificial intelligence and digital readiness into Department of Defense platforms, processes, and operations, 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 “Department of Defense
5 Artificial Intelligence Metrics Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE METRICS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
4 shall—

5 (1) review the potential applications of artificial
6 intelligence and digital technology to Department of
7 Defense platforms, processes, and operations; and

8 (2) establish performance objectives and accom-
9 panying metrics for the incorporation of artificial in-
10 telligence and digital readiness into such platforms,
11 processes, and operations.

12 (b) PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPANYING
13 METRICS.—

14 (1) SKILL GAPS.—In carrying out subsection
15 (a), the Secretary shall require each secretary of a
16 military department and the head of each component
17 of the Department shall—

18 (A)(i) conduct a comprehensive review of
19 skill gaps in the fields of software development,
20 software engineering, knowledge management,
21 data science, and artificial intelligence;

22 (ii) assess the number and qualifications of
23 civilian personnel needed for both management
24 and specialist tracks in such fields;

25 (iii) assess the number of military per-
26 sonnel (officer and enlisted) needed for both

1 management and specialist tracks in such
2 fields; and

3 (B) establish recruiting, training, and tal-
4 ent management performance objectives and ac-
5 companying metrics for achieving and maintain-
6 ing staffing levels needed to fill identified gaps
7 and meet the needs of the Department for
8 skilled personnel.

9 (2) AI MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES.—In car-
10 rying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

11 (A) assess investment by the Department
12 in artificial intelligence innovation, science and
13 technology, and research and development;

14 (B) assess investment by the Department
15 in test and evaluation of artificial intelligence
16 capabilities; and

17 (C) establish performance objectives and
18 accompanying metrics for artificial intelligence
19 modernization activities of the Department.

20 (3) EXERCISES, WARGAMES, AND EXPERIMEN-
21 TATION.—To assist the Secretary in carrying out
22 subsection (a), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
23 Staff shall—

1 (A) assess the integration of artificial intel-
2 ligence into war-games, exercises, and experi-
3 mentation; and

4 (B) develop performance objectives and ac-
5 companying metrics for such integration.

6 (4) LOGISTICS AND SUSTAINMENT.—In car-
7 rying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall require
8 the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and
9 Sustainment—

10 (A) to assess the application of artificial
11 intelligence in logistics and sustainment sys-
12 tems; and

13 (B) to establish performance objectives and
14 accompanying metrics for integration of artifi-
15 cial intelligence in the Department of Defense
16 logistics and sustainment enterprise.

17 (5) BUSINESS AI APPLICATIONS.—In carrying
18 out subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall—

19 (A) assess the integration of artificial intel-
20 ligence for administrative functions that can be
21 performed with robotic process automation and
22 artificial intelligence-enabled analysis; and

23 (B) establish performance objectives and
24 accompanying metrics for the integration of ar-
25 tificial intelligence in priority business process

1 areas of the Department, including the fol-
2 lowing:

3 (i) Human resources.

4 (ii) Budget and finance, including
5 audit.

6 (iii) Retail.

7 (iv) Real estate.

8 (v) Health care.

9 (vi) Logistics.

10 (vii) Such other business processes as
11 the Secretary considers appropriate.

12 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days
13 after the completion of the review required by subsection
14 (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional de-
15 fense committees (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10,
16 United States Code) a report on—

17 (1) the findings of the Secretary with respect to
18 the review and any action taken or proposed to be
19 taken by the Secretary to address such findings; and

20 (2) the performance objectives and accom-
21 panying metrics established under subsections (a)(2)
22 and (b).

○