

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 719

To establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development between the United States and Israel on cybersecurity.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23, 2017

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. PETERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. GARDNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development between the United States and Israel on cybersecurity.

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 “United States-Israel
5 Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL CYBERSECURITY CO-**
2 **OPERATION.**

3 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—

4 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in ac-
5 cordance with the agreement entitled the “Agree-
6 ment between the Government of the United States
7 of America and the Government of the State of
8 Israel on Cooperation in Science and Technology for
9 Homeland Security Matters”, done at Jerusalem
10 May 29, 2008 (or successor agreement), and the re-
11 quirements specified in paragraph (2), shall estab-
12 lish a grant program at the Department to sup-
13 port—

14 (A) cybersecurity research and develop-
15 ment; and

16 (B) demonstration and commercialization
17 of cybersecurity technology.

18 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

19 (A) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding any
20 other provision of law, in carrying out a re-
21 search, development, demonstration, or com-
22 mercial application program or activity that is
23 authorized under this section, the Secretary
24 shall require cost sharing in accordance with
25 this paragraph.

26 (B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
2 in clause (ii), the Secretary shall require
3 not less than 50 percent of the cost of a
4 research, development, demonstration, or
5 commercial application program or activity
6 described in subparagraph (A) to be pro-
7 vided by a non-Federal source.

8 (ii) REDUCTION.—The Secretary may
9 reduce or eliminate, on a case-by-case
10 basis, the percentage requirement specified
11 in clause (i) if the Secretary determines
12 that such reduction or elimination is nec-
13 essary and appropriate.

14 (C) MERIT REVIEW.—In carrying out a re-
15 search, development, demonstration, or com-
16 mercial application program or activity that is
17 authorized under this section, awards shall be
18 made only after an impartial review of the sci-
19 entific and technical merit of the proposals for
20 such awards has been carried out by or for the
21 Department.

22 (D) REVIEW PROCESSES.—In carrying out
23 a review under subparagraph (C), the Secretary
24 may use merit review processes developed under

1 section 302(14) of the Homeland Security Act
2 of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 182(14)).

3 (3) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—An applicant shall
4 be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection
5 if the project of such applicant—

6 (A) addresses a requirement in the area of
7 cybersecurity research or cybersecurity tech-
8 nology, as determined by the Secretary; and

9 (B) is a joint venture between—

10 (i)(I) a for-profit business entity, aca-
11 demic institution, National Laboratory (as
12 defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy
13 Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)), or non-
14 profit entity in the United States; and

15 (II) a for-profit business entity, aca-
16 demic institution, or nonprofit entity in
17 Israel; or

18 (ii)(I) the Federal Government; and

19 (II) the Government of Israel.

20 (4) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
21 grant under this subsection, an applicant shall sub-
22 mit to the Secretary an application for such grant
23 in accordance with procedures established by the
24 Secretary, in consultation with the advisory board
25 established under paragraph (5).

1 (5) ADVISORY BOARD.—

2 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
3 shall establish an advisory board to—

4 (i) monitor the method by which
5 grants are awarded under this subsection;
6 and

7 (ii) provide to the Secretary periodic
8 performance reviews of actions taken to
9 carry out this subsection.

10 (B) COMPOSITION.—The advisory board
11 established under subparagraph (A) shall be
12 composed of three members, to be appointed by
13 the Secretary, of whom—

14 (i) one shall be a representative of the
15 Federal Government;

16 (ii) one shall be selected from a list of
17 nominees provided by the United States-
18 Israel Binational Science Foundation; and

19 (iii) one shall be selected from a list
20 of nominees provided by the Israel-United
21 States Binational Industrial Research and
22 Development Foundation.

23 (6) CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.—Notwithstanding
24 any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept
25 or retain funds contributed by any person, govern-

1 ment entity, or organization for purposes of carrying
2 out this subsection. Such funds shall be available,
3 subject to appropriation, without fiscal year limita-
4 tion.

5 (7) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
6 the date of completion of a project for which a grant
7 is provided under this subsection, the grant recipient
8 shall submit to the Secretary a report that con-
9 tains—

10 (A) a description of how the grant funds
11 were used by the recipient; and

12 (B) an evaluation of the level of success of
13 each project funded by the grant.

14 (8) CLASSIFICATION.—Grants shall be awarded
15 under this subsection only for projects that are con-
16 sidered to be unclassified by both the United States
17 and Israel.

18 (b) TERMINATION.—The grant program and the ad-
19 visory board established under this section shall terminate
20 on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment
21 of this Act.

22 (c) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No addi-
23 tional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry
24 out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall
25 be carried out using amounts otherwise appropriated.

1 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

2 (1) the term “cybersecurity research” means re-
3 search, including social science research, into ways
4 to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and
5 recover from cybersecurity threats;

6 (2) the term “cybersecurity technology” means
7 technology intended to identify, protect against, de-
8 tect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity
9 threats;

10 (3) the term “cybersecurity threat” has the
11 meaning given such term in section 102 of the Cy-
12 bersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6
13 U.S.C. 1501);

14 (4) the term “Department” means the Depart-
15 ment of Homeland Security; and

16 (5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
17 of Homeland Security.

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