

Union Calendar No.

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7569

[Report No. 117-]

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2022

Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mr. CAREY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

JUNE --, 2022

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure.

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 “Energy Cybersecurity
5 University Leadership Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENERGY CYBERSECURITY UNIVERSITY LEADER-**
7 **SHIP PROGRAM.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

9 (1) Addressing cybersecurity vulnerabilities in
10 energy-related critical infrastructure after an intru-
11 sion occurs is inefficient, ineffective, and costly.

12 (2) Integrating cybersecurity considerations
13 into the research, design, and development of energy
14 infrastructure represents a cost-effective approach to
15 enhancing the security, resilience, and reliability of
16 the electric grid, oil and natural gas pipelines, and
17 other energy distribution, transmission, and genera-
18 tion systems.

19 (3) Successfully employing the approach out-
20 lined in paragraph (2) as a guiding principle for the
21 Department’s energy infrastructure activities will re-
22 quire a diverse, inclusive, and highly skilled work-
23 force which possesses energy-specific cybersecurity
24 expertise and familiarity with associated research,
25 development, and demonstration needs.

1 (4) A dedicated science scholarship program at
2 the Department for graduate students and
3 postdoctoral researchers studying energy-specific cy-
4 bersecurity disciplines could help address the chal-
5 lenges stated in paragraphs (1) through (3).

6 (b) PROGRAM.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of En-
8 ergy shall establish an Energy Cybersecurity Univer-
9 sity Leadership Program (referred to in this section
10 as the “Program”) to carry out the activities de-
11 scribed in paragraph (2).

12 (2) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
13 shall—

14 (A) provide financial assistance, on a com-
15 petitive basis, for scholarships, fellowships, and
16 research and development projects at institu-
17 tions of higher education to support graduate
18 students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing
19 a course of study that integrates cybersecurity
20 competencies within disciplines associated with
21 energy infrastructure needs;

22 (B) provide graduate students and
23 postdoctoral researchers supported under the
24 Program with research traineeship experiences
25 at National Laboratories and utilities; and

1 (C) conduct outreach to historically Black
2 colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges or
3 Universities, and minority-serving institutions.

4 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
6 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
7 the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-
8 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the
9 development and implementation of the Program.

10 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
12 means the Department of Energy.

13 (2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNI-
14 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college and
15 university” has the meaning given the term “part B
16 institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education
17 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

18 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
19 term “institution of higher education” has the
20 meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the
21 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

22 (4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
23 term “minority-serving institution” means an eligi-
24 ble institution under section 371(a) of the Higher
25 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

1 (5) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term “Na-
2 tional Laboratory” has the meaning given such term
3 in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
4 U.S.C. 15801).

5 (6) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
6 term “Tribal College or University” has the meaning
7 given such term in section 316(b) of the Higher
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).