

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 658

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 2021

Referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Cybersecurity
3 Preparedness Consortium Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act—

6 (1) the term “consortium” means a group pri-
7 marily composed of nonprofit entities, including aca-
8 demic institutions, that develop, update, and deliver
9 cybersecurity training in support of homeland secu-
10 rity;

11 (2) the terms “cybersecurity risk” and “inci-
12 dent” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
13 tion 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
14 (6 U.S.C. 659(a));

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

17 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
18 of Homeland Security.

19 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CON-**
20 **SORTIUM.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may work with a
22 consortium to support efforts to address cybersecurity
23 risks and incidents.

24 (b) ASSISTANCE TO THE NCCIC.—The Secretary
25 may work with a consortium to assist the national cyberse-
26 curity and communications integration center of the De-

1 partment (established under section 2209 of the Home-
2 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659)) to—

3 (1) provide training to State and local first re-
4 sponders and officials specifically for preparing for
5 and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents,
6 in accordance with applicable law;

7 (2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing
8 existing programs and models in accordance with
9 such section 2209, for State and local first respond-
10 ers and officials, related to cybersecurity risks and
11 incidents;

12 (3) provide technical assistance services to build
13 and sustain capabilities in support of preparedness
14 for and response to cybersecurity risks and inci-
15 dents, including threats of terrorism and acts of ter-
16 rorism, in accordance with such section 2209;

17 (4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training
18 and simulation exercises for entities, including State
19 and local governments, critical infrastructure owners
20 and operators, and private industry, to encourage
21 community-wide coordination in defending against
22 and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents,
23 in accordance with section 2210(c) of the Homeland
24 Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 660(c));

1 (5) help States and communities develop cyber-
2 security information sharing programs, in accord-
3 ance with section 2209 of the Homeland Security
4 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), for the dissemination
5 of homeland security information related to cyberse-
6 curity risks and incidents; and

7 (6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and inci-
8 dent prevention and response into existing State and
9 local emergency plans, including continuity of oper-
10 ations plans.

11 (c) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF A
12 CONSORTIUM.—In selecting a consortium with which to
13 work under this Act, the Secretary shall take into consid-
14 eration the following:

15 (1) Any prior experience conducting cybersecu-
16 rity training and exercises for State and local enti-
17 ties.

18 (2) Geographic diversity of the members of any
19 such consortium so as to cover different regions
20 throughout the United States.

21 (d) METRICS.—If the Secretary works with a consor-
22 tium under subsection (a), the Secretary shall measure the
23 effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the consor-
24 tium under this Act.

1 (e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-
2 reach to universities and colleges, including historically
3 Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institu-
4 tions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minor-
5 ity-serving institutions, regarding opportunities to support
6 efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, by
7 working with the Secretary under subsection (a).

8 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

9 Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize
10 a consortium to control or direct any law enforcement
11 agency in the exercise of the duties of the law enforcement
12 agency.

Passed the Senate July 15, 2021.

Attest: SONCERIA ANN BERRY,
Secretary.