

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7569

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.

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## 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

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## 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:

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

4           (2) Integrating cybersecurity considerations  
5 into the research, design, and development of energy  
6 infrastructure represents a cost-effective approach to  
7 enhancing the security, resilience, and reliability of  
8 the electric grid, oil and natural gas pipelines, and  
9 other energy distribution, transmission, and genera-  
10 tion systems.

11           (3) Successfully employing the approach out-  
12 lined in paragraph (2) as a guiding principle for the  
13 Department's energy infrastructure activities will re-  
14 quire a diverse, inclusive, and highly skilled work-  
15 force which possesses energy-specific cybersecurity  
16 expertise and familiarity with associated research,  
17 development, and demonstration needs.

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

23 (b) PROGRAM.—

24           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of En-  
25 ergy shall establish an Energy Cybersecurity Univer-

1       sity Leadership Program (referred to in this section  
2       as the “Program”) to carry out the activities de-  
3       scribed in paragraph (2).

4               (2) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary  
5       shall—

6                       (A) provide financial assistance, on a com-  
7                       petitive basis, for scholarships, fellowships, and  
8                       research and development projects at institu-  
9                       tions of higher education to support graduate  
10                      students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing  
11                      a course of study that integrates cybersecurity  
12                      competencies within disciplines associated with  
13                      energy infrastructure needs;

14                     (B) provide graduate students and  
15                     postdoctoral researchers supported under the  
16                     Program with research traineeship experiences  
17                     at National Laboratories and utilities; and

18                     (C) conduct outreach to historically Black  
19                     colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges or  
20                     Universities, and minority-serving institutions.

21       (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
22       of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
23       to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of  
24       the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-

1 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the  
2 development and implementation of the Program.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”  
5 means the Department of Energy.

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

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

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

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

23 (6) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The  
24 term “Tribal College or University” has the meaning

1 given such term in section 316(b) of the Higher  
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

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