

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 9326
OFFERED BY MR. Webster (FL)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Utilize Standards for
3 All Act” or the “USA Act”.

4 SEC. 2. IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS DE-
5 VELOPMENT.

6 Subsection (a) of section 10245 of the Research and
7 Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (Public
8 Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 18951) is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 “(a) IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
11 DEVELOPMENT.—The Director shall carry out the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(1) Promote international voluntary consensus
14 technical standards, developed through a private sec-
15 tor-led process (domestically and internationally) in
16 accordance with the National Institute of Standards
17 and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.), as in

1 effect on the day before the date of the enactment
2 of this subsection.

3 “(2) Strengthen the unique United States pub-
4 lic-private partnerships approach to advance United
5 States interests in international voluntary consensus
6 technical standards development, as such is critical
7 to United States economic competitiveness.

8 “(3) In coordination with the heads of relevant
9 Federal agencies, ensure cooperation and coordina-
10 tion across Federal agencies to partner with and
11 support private sector stakeholders regarding inter-
12 national voluntary consensus technical standards de-
13 velopment for emerging technologies.”.

14 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZA-**
15 **TIONS DEVELOPING STANDARDS AND SPECI-**
16 **FICATIONS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
17 **AND OTHER CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-**
18 **NOLOGIES.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title II of the Re-
20 search and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act
21 is amended by inserting after section 10245 (42 U.S.C.
22 18951) the following new sections:

1 **“SEC. 10245A. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN ORGANI-**
2 **ZATIONS DEVELOPING STANDARDS AND**
3 **SPECIFICATIONS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTEL-**
4 **LIGENCE AND OTHER CRITICAL AND EMERG-**
5 **ING TECHNOLOGIES.**

6 “(a) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
8 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
9 Director shall provide to Congress a briefing to as-
10 sist in the evaluation and identification of opportuni-
11 ties for Federal Government support for industry-led
12 efforts in the development of technical standards for
13 artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging
14 technologies in international standards organiza-
15 tions.

16 “(2) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION.—In pre-
17 paring the briefing required by paragraph (1), the
18 Director shall consult with the heads of Federal
19 agencies, industry, and private sector organizations
20 as the Director considers relevant.

21 “(3) ELEMENTS.—The briefing provided pursu-
22 ant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

23 “(A) An overview of technical standards
24 activities relating to artificial intelligence and
25 other critical and emerging technologies and in-
26 formation about the following:

1 “(i) Key technical standards that are
2 the subject of ongoing activity.

3 “(ii) Key standards bodies hosting
4 these activities.

5 “(iii) Any Federal agency that is par-
6 ticipating in these activities.

7 “(B) An analysis identifying where partici-
8 pation by United States industry and Federal
9 agencies in technical standards activities in ar-
10 tificial intelligence and other critical and emerg-
11 ing technologies would be facilitated or en-
12 hanced by conducting prestandardization activi-
13 ties, standards coordination meetings with
14 stakeholders, and standards meetings hosted in
15 the United States.

16 “(C) Recommendations for effectively in-
17 forming United States industry and Federal
18 agencies on ongoing standardization activities
19 with the objective of increasing participation of
20 such industry and agencies in such activities.

21 “(b) WEB PORTAL.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to inform United
23 States industry and Federal agencies about existing
24 and ongoing international efforts to develop tech-
25 nical standards for artificial intelligence and other

1 critical and emerging technologies and opportunities
2 for participation in such efforts, the Director may
3 establish an accessible web portal to help such indus-
4 try and agencies navigate and participate in such ef-
5 forts.

6 “(2) CONTENTS.—If the Director establishes
7 the web portal pursuant to paragraph (1), such por-
8 tal shall include regularly updated lists of the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(A) International efforts described in
11 paragraph (1) and information on opportunities
12 for participation in such efforts.

13 “(B) Information on accessing technical
14 standards, both in development and published,
15 for artificial intelligence and other critical and
16 emerging technologies.

17 “(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director may
18 enter into such cooperative agreements with such
19 nongovernmental organizations as the Director con-
20 siders appropriate to establish the web portal under
21 paragraph (1).

22 “(4) INCORPORATION.—If the Director estab-
23 lishes the web portal pursuant to paragraph (1), the
24 Director shall support organizations with which the
25 Director has entered into a cooperative agreement

1 under subsection (d) of section 10245 in order to
2 support such establishment of such web portal.

3 **“SEC. 10245B. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT STANDARDS**
4 **MEETINGS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
5 **AND OTHER CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-**
6 **NOLOGIES IN THE UNITED STATES.**

7 “(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of the enactment of this section, and
10 subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the
11 Director shall, in coordination with the heads of
12 such other Federal agencies as the Director con-
13 siderers appropriate, establish a pilot program to as-
14 sess the feasibility and availability of conducting
15 prestandardization activities, standards coordination
16 meetings with stakeholders, and supporting stand-
17 ards meetings for artificial intelligence and other
18 critical and emerging technologies in the United
19 States by awarding grants to eligible entities de-
20 scribed in subsection (b) hosting meetings of organi-
21 zations described in paragraph (1) of such sub-
22 section to support the hosting of such meetings in
23 the United States.

24 “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director may
25 carry out the pilot program required under para-

graph (1) by entering into such cooperative agreements with such nongovernmental organizations as the Director considers appropriate to establish and administer the pilot program.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of the pilot program required under subsection (a), an eligible entity is—

“(1) an organization that is developing technical standards and specifications for artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging technologies for at least one technical standard that affects the interests of one or more Federal agencies; or

“(2) an entity that hosts an organization described in paragraph (1).

“(c) GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program required under subsection (a), the Director shall award grants to eligible entities to host meetings as described in such subsection.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this subsection to host a meeting in the United States may use the amount of the grant for such costs as the Director considers reasonable for so hosting such meeting. Such costs may include the following:

1 “(A) Costs related to the preparation and
2 planning of meetings described in subsection
3 (a).

4 “(B) Meeting venue-related expenses.

5 “(C) Such other costs that may support
6 the eligible entity in conducting a standards
7 meeting in the United States.

8 “(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deciding whether to
9 award a grant under this subsection to an eligible
10 entity to host a meeting, the Director may consider
11 the extent to which the eligible entity—

12 “(A) is or hosts an organization that ad-
13 ministers technical standards activity in artifi-
14 cial intelligence and other critical and emerging
15 technologies that involves United States-based
16 participants, including participants from Fed-
17 eral agencies;

18 “(B) has a demonstrable history of partici-
19 pating in or hosting successful meetings; and

20 “(C) has a stable or growing participant
21 base.

22 “(d) GUIDANCE.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall develop
24 and periodically update guidance for the pilot pro-
25 gram required under subsection (a).

1 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The guidance developed and
2 updated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall cover the
3 following:

4 “(A) Eligibility for grants awarded under
5 the pilot program.

6 “(B) How grants are awarded under sub-
7 section (c).

8 “(C) The duration and amounts of grants
9 awarded under subsection (c).

10 “(D) The merit review process for the pilot
11 program.

12 “(E) Priority areas for technical standards
13 activity.

14 “(F) Means for recipients of grants under
15 the pilot program to report expenses relating to
16 costs described in subsection (c)(2)(D).

17 “(G) Such additional matters as the Direc-
18 tor determines appropriate for purposes of the
19 pilot program.

20 “(e) INCORPORATION.—The Director shall use the
21 authorities under subsection (d) of section 10245 to sup-
22 port the establishment of a pilot program required under
23 subsection (a).

24 “(f) BRIEFINGS FOR CONGRESS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During the third year of
2 the pilot program required under subsection (a) and
3 in each subsequent year of the pilot program, the
4 Director shall provide Congress with a briefing on
5 the pilot program.

6 “(2) ELEMENTS.—Each briefing provided pur-
7 suant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

8 “(A) An assessment of the effectiveness of
9 the pilot program with respect to improving the
10 hosting of standards meetings in the United
11 States.

12 “(B) Identification of the recipients of
13 grants under the pilot program.

14 “(C) The geographic distribution of
15 attendees at meetings supported with grants
16 under the pilot program.

17 “(D) A summary of the expenses for which
18 the amounts of grants awarded under the pilot
19 program were used.

20 “(g) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERMANENT IMPLE-
21 MENTATION.—If, before the date that is two years after
22 the date of the enactment of this section, the Director de-
23 termines that providing support as described in subsection
24 (a) is feasible and advisable, the Director shall, not later

1 than two years after the date of the enactment of this sec-
2 tion—

3 “(1) develop recommendations for such legisla-
4 tive or administrative action as the Director con-
5 siders appropriate to establish a permanent imple-
6 mentation of the pilot program; and

7 “(2) submit to Congress the recommendations
8 developed pursuant to paragraph (1).

9 “(h) TERMINATION.—The pilot program required
10 under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is
11 five years after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

12 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 10201 of the Research
13 and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (Pub-
14 lic Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 18921) is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
16 (6) as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively; and

17 (2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so re-
18 designated, the following new paragraph:

19 “(1) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER
20 CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—The
21 term ‘artificial intelligence and other critical and
22 emerging technologies’ means a subset of artificial
23 intelligence and other critical and emerging tech-
24 nologies included in the list of such technologies
25 identified and maintained by the National Science

1 and Technology Council of the Office of Science and
2 Technology Policy, including advanced manufac-
3 turing, robotics, autonomous systems, and artificial
4 intelligence-in-manufacturing, as the Director con-
5 siders appropriate—

6 “(A) to maximize the benefits to national
7 security and the United States defense indus-
8 trial base; and

9 “(B) for purposes of this Act.”.

10 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of contents
11 in sections 1 and 10000 of the Research and Development,
12 Competition, and Innovation Act (Public Law 117–167)
13 are each amended by inserting after the item relating to
14 section 10245 the following new items:

“Sec. 10245A. United States participation in organizations developing stand-
ards and specifications for artificial intelligence and other crit-
ical and emerging technologies.

“Sec. 10245B. Pilot program to support standards meetings for artificial intel-
ligence and other critical and emerging technologies in the
United States.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the
Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation
Act to promote United States leadership in technical
standards by directing the National Institute of Stand-
ards and Technology and the Department of State to
take certain actions to encourage and enable United
States participation in developing standards and speci-
fications for artificial intelligence and other critical and
emerging technologies, and for other purposes.”.

