

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 5433, With an Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

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

# H. R. 5433

To require the Secretary of State to design and establish a Vulnerability Disclosure Process (VDP) to improve Department of State cybersecurity and a bug bounty program to identify and report vulnerabilities of internet-facing information technology of the Department of State, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2018

Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself and Mr. YOHO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to design and establish a Vulnerability Disclosure Process (VDP) to improve Department of State cybersecurity and a bug bounty program to identify and report vulnerabilities of internet-facing information technology of the Department of State, 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 “Hack Your State De-  
3 partment Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **BUG BOUNTY PROGRAM.**—The term “bug  
7 bounty program” means a program under which an  
8 approved individual, organization, or company is  
9 temporarily authorized to identify and report  
10 vulnerabilities of internet-facing information tech-  
11 nology of the Department in exchange for compensa-  
12 tion.

13 (2) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department”  
14 means the Department of State.

15 (3) **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.**—The term  
16 “information technology” has the meaning given  
17 such term in section 11101 of title 40, United  
18 States Code.

19 (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means  
20 the Secretary of State.

21 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF STATE VULNERABILITY DISCLO-**  
22 **SURE PROCESS.**

23 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the  
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall de-  
25 sign, establish, and make publicly known a Vulnerability

1 Disclosure Process (VDP) to improve Department cyber-  
2 security by—

3 (1) providing security researchers with clear  
4 guidelines for—

5 (A) conducting vulnerability discovery ac-  
6 tivities directed at Department information  
7 technology; and

8 (B) submitting discovered security  
9 vulnerabilities to the Department; and

10 (2) creating Department procedures and infra-  
11 structure to receive and fix discovered  
12 vulnerabilities.

13 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the VDP pur-  
14 suant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

15 (1) identify which Department information  
16 technology should be included in the process;

17 (2) determine whether the process should dif-  
18 ferentiate among and specify the types of security  
19 vulnerabilities that may be targeted;

20 (3) provide a readily available means of report-  
21 ing discovered security vulnerabilities and the form  
22 in which such vulnerabilities should be reported;

23 (4) identify which Department offices and posi-  
24 tions will be responsible for receiving, prioritizing,

1 and addressing security vulnerability disclosure re-  
2 ports;

3 (5) consult with the Attorney General regarding  
4 how to ensure that approved individuals, organiza-  
5 tions, and companies that comply with the require-  
6 ments of the process are protected from prosecution  
7 under section 1030 of title 18, United States Code,  
8 and similar provisions of law for specific activities  
9 authorized under the process;

10 (6) consult with the relevant offices at the De-  
11 partment of Defense that were responsible for  
12 launching the 2016 Vulnerability Disclosure Pro-  
13 gram, “Hack the Pentagon”, and subsequent De-  
14 partment of Defense bug bounty programs;

15 (7) engage qualified interested persons, includ-  
16 ing nongovernmental sector representatives, about  
17 the structure of the process as constructive and to  
18 the extent practicable; and

19 (8) award a contract to an entity, as necessary,  
20 to manage the process and implement the remedi-  
21 ation of discovered security vulnerabilities.

22 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days  
23 after the establishment of the VDP under subsection (a)  
24 and annually thereafter for the next six years, the Sec-  
25 retary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign

1 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
2 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the  
3 following with respect to the VDP:

4 (1) The number and severity, in accordance  
5 with the National Vulnerabilities Database of the  
6 National Institute of Standards and Technology, of  
7 security vulnerabilities reported.

8 (2) The number of previously unidentified secu-  
9 rity vulnerabilities remediated as a result.

10 (3) The current number of outstanding pre-  
11 viously unidentified security vulnerabilities and De-  
12 partment of State remediation plans.

13 (4) The average length of time between the re-  
14 porting of security vulnerabilities and remediation of  
15 such vulnerabilities.

16 (5) An estimate of the total cost savings of dis-  
17 covering and addressing security vulnerabilities sub-  
18 mitted through the VDP.

19 (6) The resources, surge staffing, roles, and re-  
20 sponsibilities within the Department used to imple-  
21 ment the VDP and complete security vulnerability  
22 remediation.

23 (7) Any other information the Secretary deter-  
24 mines relevant.

1 **SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUG BOUNTY PILOT PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
6 retary shall establish a bug bounty pilot program to  
7 minimize security vulnerabilities of internet-facing  
8 information technology of the Department.

9 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the pilot  
10 program described in paragraph (1), the Secretary  
11 shall—

12 (A) provide compensation for reports of  
13 previously unidentified security vulnerabilities  
14 within the websites, applications, and other  
15 internet-facing information technology of the  
16 Department that are accessible to the public;

17 (B) award a contract to an entity, as nec-  
18 essary, to manage such pilot program and for  
19 executing the remediation of security  
20 vulnerabilities identified pursuant to subpara-  
21 graph (A);

22 (C) identify which Department information  
23 technology should be included in such pilot pro-  
24 gram;

25 (D) consult with the Attorney General on  
26 how to ensure that approved individuals, orga-

1           nizations, or companies that comply with the  
2           requirements of such pilot program are pro-  
3           tected from prosecution under section 1030 of  
4           title 18, United States Code, and similar provi-  
5           sions of law for specific activities authorized  
6           under such pilot program;

7           (E) consult with the relevant offices at the  
8           Department of Defense that were responsible  
9           for launching the 2016 “Hack the Pentagon”  
10          pilot program and subsequent Department of  
11          Defense bug bounty programs;

12          (F) develop a process by which an ap-  
13          proved individual, organization, or company can  
14          register with the entity referred to in subpara-  
15          graph (B), submit to a background check as de-  
16          termined by the Department, and receive a de-  
17          termination as to eligibility for participation in  
18          such pilot program;

19          (G) engage qualified interested persons, in-  
20          cluding nongovernmental sector representatives,  
21          about the structure of such pilot program as  
22          constructive and to the extent practicable; and

23          (H) consult with relevant United States  
24          Government officials to ensure that such pilot  
25          program compliments persistent network and

1 vulnerability scans of the Department of State's  
2 internet-accessible systems, such as the scans  
3 conducted pursuant to Binding Operational Di-  
4 rective BOD-15-01.

5 (3) DURATION.—The pilot program established  
6 under paragraph (1) should be short-term in dura-  
7 tion and not last longer than one year.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
9 on which the bug bounty pilot program under subsection  
10 (a) is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
11 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Com-  
12 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives  
13 a report on such pilot program, including information re-  
14 lating to—

15 (1) the number of approved individuals, organi-  
16 zations, or companies involved in such pilot pro-  
17 gram, broken down by the number of approved indi-  
18 viduals, organizations, or companies that—

19 (A) registered;

20 (B) were approved;

21 (C) submitted security vulnerabilities; and

22 (D) received compensation;

23 (2) the number and severity, in accordance with  
24 the National Vulnerabilities Database of the Na-  
25 tional Institute of Standards and Technology, of se-



1 security vulnerabilities reported as part of such pilot  
2 program;

3 (3) the number of previously unidentified secu-  
4 rity vulnerabilities remediated as a result of such  
5 pilot program;

6 (4) the current number of outstanding pre-  
7 viously unidentified security vulnerabilities and De-  
8 partment remediation plans;

9 (5) the average length of time between the re-  
10 porting of security vulnerabilities and remediation of  
11 such vulnerabilities;

12 (6) the types of compensation provided under  
13 such pilot program; and

14 (7) the lessons learned from such pilot pro-  
15 gram.