

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, S. 658, With an Amendment
**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a
new text)**

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. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CON-**
5 **SORTIUM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may work with one
7 or more consortia to support efforts to address cybersecu-
8 rity risks and incidents.

9 (b) ASSISTANCE TO DHS.—The Secretary may work
10 with one or more consortia to carry out the Secretary’s
11 responsibility pursuant to section 2202(e)(1)(P) of the
12 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 652(e)(1)(P))
13 to—

14 (1) provide training and education to State,
15 Tribal, and local first responders and officials spe-
16 cifically for preparing for and responding to cyberse-
17 curity risks and incidents, in accordance with appli-
18 cable law;

19 (2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing
20 existing training and educational programs and
21 models in accordance with section 2209 of the
22 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), for
23 State, Tribal, and local first responders and officials,
24 related to cybersecurity risks and incidents;

25 (3) provide technical assistance services, train-
26 ing, and educational programs to build and sustain

1 capabilities in support of preparedness for and re-
2 sponse to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including
3 threats of acts of terrorism, in accordance with such
4 section 2209;

5 (4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training,
6 education, and simulation exercises for entities, in-
7 cluding State and local governments and Tribal or-
8 ganizations, critical infrastructure owners and opera-
9 tors, and private industry, to encourage community-
10 wide coordination in defending against and respond-
11 ing to cybersecurity risks and incidents, in accord-
12 ance with section 2210(c) of the Homeland Security
13 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 660(c));

14 (5) help States, Tribal organizations, and com-
15 munities develop cybersecurity information sharing
16 programs, in accordance with section 2209 of the
17 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), for
18 the dissemination of homeland security information
19 related to cybersecurity risks and incidents;

20 (6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and inci-
21 dent prevention and response into existing State,
22 Tribal, and local emergency plans, including con-
23 tinuity of operations plans; and

24 (7) assist State governments and Tribal organi-
25 zations in developing cybersecurity plans.

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

5 (1) Prior experience conducting cybersecurity
6 training, education, and exercises for State and local
7 entities.

8 (2) Geographic diversity of the members of any
9 such consortium so as to maximize coverage of the
10 different regions of the United States.

11 (3) The participation in such consortium of one
12 or more historically Black colleges and universities,
13 Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and
14 Universities, other minority-serving institutions, and
15 community colleges that participate in the National
16 Centers of Excellence in Cybersecurity program, as
17 carried out by the Department of Homeland Secu-
18 rity.

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

23 (e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-
24 reach to universities and colleges, including, in particular,
25 outreach to historically Black colleges and universities,

1 Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Univer-
2 sities, other minority-serving institutions, and community
3 colleges, regarding opportunities to support efforts to ad-
4 dress cybersecurity risks and incidents, by working with
5 the Secretary under subsection (a).

6 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
7 tion may be construed to authorize a consortium to control
8 or direct any law enforcement agency in the exercise of
9 the duties of the law enforcement agency.

10 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

11 (1) the term “community college” has the
12 meaning given the term “junior or community col-
13 lege” in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of
14 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058);

15 (2) the term “consortium” means a group pri-
16 marily composed of nonprofit entities, including aca-
17 demic institutions, that develop, update, and deliver
18 cybersecurity training and education in support of
19 homeland security;

20 (3) the terms “cybersecurity risk” and “inci-
21 dent” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
22 tion 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
23 (6 U.S.C. 659(a));

24 (4) the term “Department” means the Depart-
25 ment of Homeland Security;

1 (5) the term “Hispanic-serving institution” has
2 the meaning given the term in section 502 of the
3 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a);

4 (6) the term “historically Black college and uni-
5 versity” has the meaning given the term “part B in-
6 stitution” in section 322 of the Higher Education
7 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061);

8 (7) the term “minority-serving institution”
9 means an institution of higher education described
10 in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a));

12 (8) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
13 of Homeland Security;

14 (9) The term “State” means any State of the
15 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
16 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
17 Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Common-
18 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any
19 possession of the United States;

20 (10) the term “Tribal Colleges and Univer-
21 sities” has the meaning given the term in section
22 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
23 U.S.C. 1059c); and

24 (11) the term “Tribal organization” has the
25 meaning given the term in section 4(e) of the Indian

- 1 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
- 2 (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).