

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 4755, With an Amendment

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

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4755

To support research on privacy enhancing technologies and promote responsible data use, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2023

Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To support research on privacy enhancing technologies and promote responsible data use, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Privacy Enhancing
5 Technology Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY.**

7 (a) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SUPPORT OF
8 RESEARCH ON PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY.—The

1 Director of the National Science Foundation, in consulta-
2 tion with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies (as
3 determined by the Director), shall support merit-reviewed
4 and competitively awarded research on privacy enhancing
5 technologies, which may include the following:

6 (1) Fundamental research on technologies for
7 de-identification, pseudonymization, anonymization,
8 or obfuscation to mitigate individuals' privacy risks
9 in data sets while maintaining fairness, accuracy,
10 and efficiency.

11 (2) Fundamental research on algorithms and
12 other similar mathematical tools used to protect in-
13 dividual privacy when collecting, storing, sharing,
14 analyzing, or aggregating data.

15 (3) Fundamental research on technologies that
16 promote data minimization in data collection, shar-
17 ing, and analytics that takes into account the trade-
18 offs between the data minimization goals and the in-
19 formational goals of data collection.

20 (4) Research awards on privacy enhancing tech-
21 nologies coordinated with other relevant Federal
22 agencies and programs.

23 (5) Supporting education and workforce train-
24 ing research and development activities, including re-
25 training and upskilling of the existing workforce, to

1 increase the number of privacy enhancing technology
2 researchers and practitioners.

3 (6) Multidisciplinary socio-technical research
4 that fosters broader understanding of privacy pref-
5 erences, requirements, and human behavior to in-
6 form the design and adoption of effective privacy so-
7 lutions.

8 (7) Development of freely available privacy en-
9 hancing technology software libraries, platforms, and
10 applications.

11 (8) Fundamental research on techniques that
12 may undermine the protections provided by privacy
13 enhancing technologies, the limitations of such pro-
14 tections, and the trade-offs between privacy and util-
15 ity required for the deployment of such technologies.

16 (9) Fundamental research on technologies and
17 techniques to preserve the privacy and confiden-
18 tiality of individuals from unconsented, unwanted, or
19 unauthorized location tracking, including through
20 GPS.

21 (b) INTEGRATION INTO THE COMPUTER AND NET-
22 WORK SECURITY PROGRAM.—Subparagraph (D) of sec-
23 tion 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Develop-
24 ment Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)(D)) is amended by in-

1 serting “, including privacy enhancing technologies” be-
2 fore the semicolon.

3 (c) COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE
4 OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER STAKE-
5 HOLDERS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
7 Science and Technology Policy, acting through the
8 Networking and Information Technology Research
9 and Development Program, shall coordinate with the
10 Director of the National Science Foundation, the Di-
11 rector of the National Institute of Standards and
12 Technology, the Federal Trade Commission, and the
13 heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, to
14 accelerate the development, deployment, and adop-
15 tion of privacy enhancing technologies.

16 (2) OUTREACH.—The Director of the National
17 Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct
18 outreach to—

19 (A) receive input from private, public, and
20 academic stakeholders on the development of
21 privacy enhancing technologies; and

22 (B) facilitate and support ongoing public
23 and private sector engagement to inform the
24 development and dissemination of voluntary,
25 consensus-based technical standards, guidelines,

1 methodologies, procedures, and processes to
2 cost-effectively increase the integration of pri-
3 vacy enhancing technologies in data collection,
4 sharing, and analytics performed by the public
5 and private sectors.

6 (d) REPORT ON PRIVACY ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY
7 RESEARCH.—Not later than three years after the date of
8 the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of
9 Science and Technology Policy, acting through the Net-
10 working and Information Technology Research and Devel-
11 opment Program, shall, in coordination with the Director
12 of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the
13 National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the
14 heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, submit
15 to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
16 tation of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Commerce,
17 Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee
18 on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on
19 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives, and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Jus-
21 tice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on
22 Appropriations of the House of Representatives, a report
23 containing information relating to the following:

24 (1) The progress of research on privacy enhanc-
25 ing technologies.

1 (2) The progress of the development of vol-
2 untary resources described under subsection
3 (c)(2)(B).

4 (3) Any policy recommendations that could fa-
5 cilitate and improve communication and coordination
6 between the private sector and relevant Federal
7 agencies for the implementation and adoption of pri-
8 vacy enhancing technologies.

9 (e) PROTECTING PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMA-
10 TION.—Any personal identifying information collected or
11 stored through the activities authorized under this section
12 shall be done in accordance with part 690 of title 45, Code
13 of Federal Regulations (relating to the protection of
14 human subjects), or any successor regulation.

15 (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “privacy
16 enhancing technology”—

17 (1) means any software or hardware solution,
18 technical process, or other technological means of
19 mitigating individuals’ privacy risks arising from
20 data processing by enhancing predictability, manage-
21 ability, disassociability, and confidentiality; and

22 (2) may include—

23 (A) cryptographic techniques for facili-
24 tating computation or analysis on data while
25 mitigating privacy risks;

- 1 (B) techniques for—
- 2 (i) publicly sharing data without ena-
- 3 bling inferences to be made about specific
- 4 individuals;
- 5 (ii) giving individuals' control over the
- 6 dissemination, sharing, and use of their
- 7 data; and
- 8 (iii) generating synthetic data; and
- 9 (C) any other technology or approach that
- 10 reduces the risk of re-identification, including
- 11 when combined with other information.