

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, 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 “Rural Hospital Cyber-
5 security Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
5 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

6 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
7 of the House of Representatives.

8 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
9 the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure
10 Security Agency.

11 (3) RURAL HOSPITAL.—The term “rural hos-
12 pital” means a healthcare facility that—

13 (A) is located in a non-urbanized area, as
14 determined by the Bureau of the Census; and

15 (B) provides inpatient and outpatient
16 healthcare services, including primary care,
17 emergency care, and diagnostic services.

18 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

20 **SEC. 3. RURAL HOSPITAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE**
21 **DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
24 through the Director, shall develop and transmit to the
25 appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive rural

1 hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy to
2 address the growing need for skilled cybersecurity profes-
3 sionals in rural hospitals.

4 (b) CONSULTATION.—

5 (1) AGENCIES.—In carrying out subsection (a),
6 the Secretary and Director may consult with the
7 Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Sec-
8 retary of Education, and the Secretary of Labor.

9 (2) PROVIDERS.—In carrying out subsection
10 (a), the Secretary shall consult with rural healthcare
11 providers from each geographic region in the United
12 States.

13 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—The rural hospital cybersecu-
14 rity workforce development strategy developed under sub-
15 section (a) shall, at a minimum, consider the following
16 components:

17 (1) Partnerships between rural hospitals, edu-
18 cational institutions, private sector entities, and non-
19 profit organizations to develop, promote, and expand
20 cybersecurity education and training programs tai-
21 lored to the needs of rural hospitals.

22 (2) The development of a cybersecurity cur-
23 riculum and teaching resources that focus on teach-
24 ing technical skills and abilities related to cybersecu-
25 rity in rural hospitals for use in community colleges,

1 vocational schools, and other educational institutions
2 located in rural areas.

3 (3) Recommendations for legislation, rule-
4 making, or guidance to implement the components
5 of the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce develop-
6 ment strategy.

7 (d) ANNUAL REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after
8 the date on which the first full fiscal year ends following
9 the date on which the Secretary transmits the rural hos-
10 pital cybersecurity workforce development strategy devel-
11 oped under subsection (a), and not later than 60 days
12 after the date on which each fiscal year thereafter ends,
13 the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees
14 of Congress a report that includes, at a minimum, infor-
15 mation relating to—

16 (1) updates to the rural hospital cybersecurity
17 workforce development strategy, as appropriate;

18 (2) any programs or initiatives established pur-
19 suant to the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce
20 development strategy, as well as the number of indi-
21 viduals trained or educated through such programs
22 or initiatives;

23 (3) additional recommendations for legislation,
24 rulemaking, or guidance to implement the compo-

1 nents of the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce
2 development strategy; and

3 (4) the effectiveness of the rural hospital cyber-
4 security workforce development strategy in address-
5 ing the need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in
6 rural hospitals.

7 **SEC. 4. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR RURAL HOS-**
8 **PITALS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall make
11 available instructional materials for rural hospitals that
12 can be used to train staff on fundamental cybersecurity
13 efforts.

14 (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Di-
15 rector shall—

16 (1) consult with experts in cybersecurity edu-
17 cation and rural healthcare experts;

18 (2) identify existing cybersecurity instructional
19 materials that can be adapted for use in rural hos-
20 pitals and create new materials as needed; and

21 (3) conduct an awareness campaign to promote
22 the materials available to rural hospitals developed
23 under subsection (a).

1 SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION.

2 Any action undertaken pursuant to this Act shall not
3 be subject to chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code.