

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2234

To establish a consortia of universities to advise the Secretary of Defense on cybersecurity matters, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2019

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

A BILL

To establish a consortia of universities to advise the Secretary of Defense on cybersecurity matters, 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 “National Defense Cy-
5 bersecurity Consortia Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSORTIA OF UNIVERSITIES TO ADVISE SEC-**
2 **RETARY OF DEFENSE ON CYBERSECURITY**
3 **MATTERS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense
5 shall establish one or more consortia to advise and assist
6 the Secretary on matters relating to cybersecurity.

7 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The consortium or consortia es-
8 tablished under subsection (a) shall consist of universities
9 that have been designated as centers of academic excel-
10 lence by the Director of the National Security Agency or
11 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

12 (c) ORGANIZATION.—

13 (1) DESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIR
14 AND TERMS.—For each consortium established
15 under subsection (a), the Secretary, based on rec-
16 ommendations from the members of the consortium,
17 shall designate one member of the consortium to
18 function as an administrative chair of the consor-
19 tium for a term with a specific duration specified by
20 the Secretary.

21 (2) SUBSEQUENT TERMS.—No member of a
22 consortium designated under paragraph (1) may
23 serve as the administrative chair of that consortium
24 for two consecutive terms.

1 (3) DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIR.—Each
2 administrative chair designated under paragraph (1)
3 for a consortium shall—

4 (A) act as the leader of the consortium for
5 the term specified by the Secretary under para-
6 graph (1);

7 (B) be the liaison between the consortium
8 and the Secretary;

9 (C) distribute requests from the Secretary
10 for advice and assistance to appropriate mem-
11 bers of the consortium and coordinate responses
12 back to the Secretary; and

13 (D) act as a clearinghouse for Department
14 of Defense requests relating to advice and as-
15 sistance on matters relating to cybersecurity
16 and to provide feedback to the Secretary from
17 members of the consortium.

18 (d) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of a consortium es-
19 tablished under subsection (a) are as follows:

20 (1) To provide to the Secretary access to the
21 expertise of the members of the consortium on mat-
22 ters relating to cybersecurity.

23 (2) To align the efforts of such members in
24 support of the Department.

1 (3) To act as a facilitator in responding to De-
2 partment requests relating to advice and assistance
3 on matters relating to cybersecurity and to provide
4 feedback to the Secretary from members of the con-
5 sortium.

6 (e) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall establish pro-
7 cedures for organizations within the Department to access
8 the work product produced by and the research, capabili-
9 ties, and expertise of a consortium established under sub-
10 section (a) and the universities that constitute the consor-
11 tium.

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