115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 594

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2017

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2017''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term ''consortium'' means a group primarily composed of nonprofit entities, including aca-

demic institutions, that develop, update, and deliver cybersecurity training in support of homeland security;

(2) the terms ''cybersecurity risk'' and ''incident'' have the meanings given those terms in section 227(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148(a));

(3) the term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security; and

(4) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may work with a consortium, including the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium, to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism.

(b) ASSISTANCE TO THE NCCIC.—The Secretary may work with a consortium to assist the national cybersecurity and communications integration center of the Department (established under section 227 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148)) to—

(1) provide training to State and local first responders and officials specifically for preparing for

and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism, in accordance with applicable law;

(2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing existing programs and models in accordance with such section 227, for State and local first responders and officials, related to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism;

(3) provide technical assistance services to build and sustain capabilities in support of preparedness for and response to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism, in accordance with such section 227;

(4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training and simulation exercises for entities, including State and local governments, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and private industry, to encourage community-wide coordination in defending against and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism, in accordance with section 228(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 149(c));

(5) help States and communities develop cybersecurity information sharing programs, in accord-

ance with section 227 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148), for the dissemination of homeland security information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism; and

(6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and incident prevention and response (including related to threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism) into existing State and local emergency plans, including continuity of operations plans.

(c) PROHIBITION ON DUPLICATION.—In carrying out the functions under subsection (b), the Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, seek to prevent unnecessary duplication of existing programs or efforts of the Department.

(d) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF A CONSORTIUM.—In selecting a consortium with which to work under this Act, the Secretary shall take into consideration the following:

(1) Any prior experience conducting cybersecurity training and exercises for State and local entities.

(2) Geographic diversity of the members of any such consortium so as to cover different regions throughout the United States.

(e) METRICS.—If the Secretary works with a consortium under subsection (a), the Secretary shall measure the effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the consortium under this Act.

(f) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct outreach to universities and colleges, including historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions, regarding opportunities to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism, by working with the Secretary under subsection (a).

(g) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out this Act shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

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