

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2659

To establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development between the United States and Israel on cybersecurity.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2021

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development between the United States and Israel on cybersecurity.

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 “United States-Israel
5 Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL CYBERSECURITY CO-**
7 **OPERATION.**

8 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in ac-
2 cordance with the agreement entitled the “Agree-
3 ment between the Government of the United States
4 of America and the Government of the State of
5 Israel on Cooperation in Science and Technology for
6 Homeland Security Matters”, dated May 29, 2008
7 (or successor agreement), and the requirements
8 specified in paragraph (2), shall establish a grant
9 program at the Department to support—

10 (A) cybersecurity research and develop-
11 ment; and

12 (B) demonstration and commercialization
13 of cybersecurity technology.

14 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

15 (A) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding any
16 other provision of law, in carrying out a re-
17 search, development, demonstration, or com-
18 mercial application program or activity that is
19 authorized under this section, the Secretary
20 shall require cost sharing in accordance with
21 this paragraph.

22 (B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

23 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
24 in clause (ii), the Secretary shall require
25 not less than 50 percent of the cost of a

1 research, development, demonstration, or
2 commercial application program or activity
3 described in subparagraph (A) to be pro-
4 vided by a non-Federal source.

5 (ii) REDUCTION.—The Secretary may
6 reduce or eliminate, on a case-by-case
7 basis, the percentage requirement specified
8 in clause (i) if the Secretary determines
9 that such reduction or elimination is nec-
10 essary and appropriate.

11 (C) MERIT REVIEW.—In carrying out a re-
12 search, development, demonstration, or com-
13 mercial application program or activity that is
14 authorized under this section, awards shall be
15 made only after an impartial review of the sci-
16 entific and technical merit of the proposals for
17 such awards has been carried out by or for the
18 Department.

19 (D) REVIEW PROCESSES.—In carrying out
20 a review under subparagraph (C), the Secretary
21 may use merit review processes developed under
22 section 302(14) of the Homeland Security Act
23 of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 182(14)).

1 (3) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—An applicant shall
2 be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection
3 if the project of such applicant—

4 (A) addresses a requirement in the area of
5 cybersecurity research or cybersecurity tech-
6 nology, as determined by the Secretary; and

7 (B) is a joint venture between—

8 (i)(I) a for-profit business entity, aca-
9 demic institution, National Laboratory (as
10 such term is defined in section 2 of the
11 Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
12 15801)), or nonprofit entity in the United
13 States; and

14 (II) a for-profit business entity, aca-
15 demic institution, or nonprofit entity in
16 Israel; or

17 (ii)(I) the Federal Government; and

18 (II) the Government of Israel.

19 (4) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
20 grant under this subsection, an applicant shall sub-
21 mit to the Secretary an application for such grant
22 in accordance with procedures established by the
23 Secretary, in consultation with the advisory board
24 established under paragraph (5).

25 (5) ADVISORY BOARD.—

1 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
2 shall establish an advisory board to—

3 (i) monitor the method by which
4 grants are awarded under this subsection;
5 and

6 (ii) provide to the Secretary periodic
7 performance reviews of actions taken to
8 carry out this subsection.

9 (B) COMPOSITION.—The advisory board
10 established under subparagraph (A) shall be
11 composed of three members, to be appointed by
12 the Secretary, of whom—

13 (i) one shall be a representative of the
14 Federal Government;

15 (ii) one shall be selected from a list of
16 nominees provided by the United States-
17 Israel Binational Science Foundation; and

18 (iii) one shall be selected from a list
19 of nominees provided by the United States-
20 Israel Binational Industrial Research and
21 Development Foundation.

22 (6) CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.—Notwithstanding
23 any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept
24 or retain funds contributed by any person, govern-
25 ment entity, or organization for purposes of carrying

1 out this subsection. Such funds shall be available,
2 subject to appropriation, without fiscal year limita-
3 tion.

4 (7) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
5 the date of completion of a project for which a grant
6 is provided under this subsection, the grant recipient
7 shall submit to the Secretary a report that con-
8 tains—

9 (A) a description of how the grant funds
10 were used by the recipient; and

11 (B) an evaluation of the level of success of
12 each project funded by the grant.

13 (8) CLASSIFICATION.—Grants shall be awarded
14 under this subsection only for projects that are con-
15 sidered to be unclassified by both the United States
16 and Israel.

17 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not
19 less than \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through
20 2026.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

22 (1) the term “cybersecurity research” means re-
23 search, including social science research, into ways
24 to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and
25 recover from cybersecurity threats;

1 (2) the term “cybersecurity technology” means
2 technology intended to identify, protect against, de-
3 tect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity
4 threats;

5 (3) the term “cybersecurity threat” has the
6 meaning given such term in section 102 of the Cy-
7 bersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6
8 U.S.C. 1501; enacted as title I of the Cybersecurity
9 Act of 2015 (division N of the Consolidated Appro-
10 priations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113)));

11 (4) the term “Department” means the Depart-
12 ment of Homeland Security; and

13 (5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
14 of Homeland Security.

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