

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To promote United States leadership in technical standards by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of State to take certain actions to encourage and enable United States participation in developing standards and specifications for artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging technologies, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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## **A BILL**

To promote United States leadership in technical standards by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of State to take certain actions to encourage and enable United States participation in developing standards and specifications for artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging technologies, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Promoting United  
3 States Leadership in Standards Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER**  
7 **CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.**—The  
8 term “artificial intelligence and other critical and  
9 emerging technologies” means a subset of artificial  
10 intelligence and other critical and emerging tech-  
11 nologies included in the list of such technologies  
12 identified and maintained by the National Science  
13 and Technology Council of the Office of Science and  
14 Technology Policy as the Director considers appro-  
15 priate for purposes of this Act.

16 (2) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means  
17 the Director of the National Institute of Standards  
18 and Technology.

19 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZA-**  
20 **TIONS DEVELOPING STANDARDS AND SPECI-**  
21 **FICATIONS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**  
22 **AND OTHER CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-**  
23 **NOLOGIES.**

24 (a) **BRIEFING REQUIRED.**—

25 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after  
26 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director

1 shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State,  
2 provide to Congress a briefing to assist in the eval-  
3 uation and identification of opportunities for Federal  
4 Government support for industry-led efforts in the  
5 development of technical standards for artificial in-  
6 telligence and other critical and emerging tech-  
7 nologies.

8 (2) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION.—In pre-  
9 paring the briefing required by paragraph (1), the  
10 Director and the Secretary of State shall jointly con-  
11 sult with the heads of such Federal agencies as they  
12 jointly consider relevant.

13 (3) ELEMENTS.—The briefing provided pursu-  
14 ant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

15 (A) An overview of standards activities re-  
16 lating to artificial intelligence and other critical  
17 and emerging technologies and information  
18 about the following:

19 (i) Key technical standards that are  
20 the subject of ongoing activity.

21 (ii) Key standards bodies hosting  
22 these activities.

23 (iii) Any Federal agency that is par-  
24 ticipating in these activities.

1 (B) An analysis identifying where partici-  
2 pation by United States industry and Federal  
3 agencies in standards activities in artificial in-  
4 telligence and other critical and emerging tech-  
5 nologies would be facilitated or enhanced by  
6 conducting standards meetings hosted in the  
7 United States.

8 (C) Recommendations for effectively in-  
9 forming United States industry and Federal  
10 agencies on ongoing standardization activities  
11 with the objective of increasing participation of  
12 such industry and agencies in such activities.

13 (4) FEDERAL AGENCY NOTICE REQUIRE-  
14 MENT.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Using the mechanism  
16 established pursuant to subparagraph (B), each  
17 head of a Federal agency shall transmit to the  
18 Secretary of State and the Director notice of  
19 the participation of their respective Federal  
20 agency in a standards activity relating to artifi-  
21 cial intelligence and other critical and emerging  
22 technologies.

23 (B) MECHANISM.—The Secretary of State  
24 and the Director shall, in coordination with the  
25 Director of the Office of Management and

1           Budget, jointly develop a mechanism for report-  
2           ing participation by Federal agencies in stand-  
3           ards activities.

4           (b) WEB PORTAL.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to inform United  
6           States industry and Federal agencies about existing  
7           and ongoing international efforts to develop tech-  
8           nical standards for artificial intelligence and other  
9           critical and emerging technologies and opportunities  
10          for participation in such efforts, the Director shall,  
11          in coordination with the Secretary of State, establish  
12          an accessible web portal to help such industry and  
13          agencies navigate and participate in such efforts.

14          (2) CONTENTS.—The web portal established  
15          pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include regularly  
16          updated lists of the following:

17                 (A) International efforts described in para-  
18                 graph (1) and information on opportunities for  
19                 participation in such efforts.

20                 (B) Information on accessing standards,  
21                 both in development and published, for artificial  
22                 intelligence and other critical and emerging  
23                 technologies.

24          (3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director may, in  
25          coordination with the Secretary of State, enter into

1 such cooperative agreements with such nongovern-  
2 mental organizations as the Director considers ap-  
3 propriate to establish the web portal required by  
4 paragraph (1).

5 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT STANDARDS MEET-**  
6 **INGS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND**  
7 **OTHER CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-**  
8 **NOLOGIES IN THE UNITED STATES.**

9 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and sub-  
12 ject to the availability of appropriated funds, the Di-  
13 rector shall, in coordination with the Secretary of  
14 State and the heads of such other Federal agencies  
15 as the Director considers appropriate, establish a  
16 pilot program on supporting standards meetings for  
17 artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging  
18 technologies in the United States by awarding  
19 grants to eligible entities described in subsection (b)  
20 hosting meetings of organizations described in para-  
21 graph (1) of such subsection to support the hosting  
22 of such meetings in the United States.

23 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director may, in  
24 coordination with the Secretary of State, carry out  
25 the pilot program required by paragraph (1) by en-

1       tering into such cooperative agreements with such  
2       nongovernmental organizations as the Director con-  
3       siders appropriate to establish and administer the  
4       pilot program.

5       (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of the pilot  
6       program required by subsection (a), an eligible entity is—

7           (1) an organization that is developing standards  
8           and specifications for artificial intelligence and other  
9           critical and emerging technologies for at least 1  
10          technical standard that affects the interests of 1 or  
11          more Federal agencies; or

12          (2) an entity that hosts an organization de-  
13          scribed in paragraph (1).

14       (c) GRANTS.—

15          (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot  
16          program required by subsection (a), the Director  
17          shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State,  
18          award grants to eligible entities to host meetings as  
19          described in such subsection.

20          (2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-  
21          ing a grant under this subsection to host a meeting  
22          in the United States may use the amount of the  
23          grant for such costs as the Director considers rea-  
24          sonable for hosting the meeting in the United  
25          States, but not more than fifty percent of antici-

1 pated cost of hosting the meeting and not more than  
2 a maximum amount that the Director shall establish  
3 for purposes of this subsection. Such costs may in-  
4 clude the following:

5 (A) Costs related to the preparation and  
6 planning of meetings described in subsection  
7 (a).

8 (B) Meeting venue-related expenses.

9 (C) Such other costs that may support the  
10 eligible entity in conducting a standards meet-  
11 ing in the United States.

12 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deciding whether to  
13 award a grant under this subsection to an eligible  
14 entity to host a meeting, the Director may, in co-  
15 ordination with the Secretary of State, consider the  
16 extent to which the eligible entity—

17 (A) is or hosts an organization that admin-  
18 isters technical standards activity in artificial  
19 intelligence and other critical and emerging  
20 technologies that involves United States-based  
21 participants, including but not limited to par-  
22 ticipants from Federal agencies of the United  
23 States;

24 (B) has a demonstrable history of partici-  
25 pating in or hosting successful meetings; and



1                   (G) Such additional matters as the Direc-  
2                   tor determines appropriate for purposes of the  
3                   pilot program.

4           (e) BRIEFINGS FOR CONGRESS.—

5                   (1) IN GENERAL.—During the third year of the  
6                   pilot program carried out under this section and in  
7                   each subsequent year of the pilot program, the Di-  
8                   rector and the Secretary of State shall jointly pro-  
9                   vide Congress with a briefing on the pilot program.

10                   (2) ELEMENTS.—Each briefing provided pursu-  
11                   ant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

12                           (A) An assessment of the effectiveness of  
13                           the pilot program with respect to improving the  
14                           hosting of standards meetings in the United  
15                           States.

16                           (B) Identification of the recipients of  
17                           grants under the pilot program.

18                           (C) The geographic distribution of  
19                           attendees at meetings supported with grants  
20                           under the pilot program.

21                           (D) A summary of the expenses for which  
22                           the amounts of grants awarded under the pilot  
23                           program were used.

24           (f) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERMANENT IMPLE-  
25           MENTATION.—If, before the date that is 2 years after the

1 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director determines,  
2 in consultation with the Secretary of State, that providing  
3 support as described in subsection (a) is feasible and ad-  
4 visable, the Director shall, not later than 2 years after  
5 the date of the enactment of this Act—

6 (1) develop recommendations for such legisla-  
7 tive or administrative action as the Director con-  
8 siders appropriate to establish a permanent imple-  
9 mentation of the pilot program; and

10 (2) submit to Congress the recommendations  
11 developed pursuant to paragraph (1).

12 (g) TERMINATION.—The pilot program required by  
13 subsection (a)(1) shall terminate on the date that is 5  
14 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

15 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
17 \$5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through  
18 2028.