

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To establish a National Manufacturing Extension Partnership Supply Chain Database, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To establish a National Manufacturing Extension Partnership Supply Chain Database, 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 MEP Supply
5 Chain Database Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNER-**
7 **SHIP SUPPLY CHAIN DATABASE.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) CENTER.—The term “Center” has the
10 meaning given such term in section 25(a) of the Na-

1 tional Institute of Standards and Technology Act
2 (15 U.S.C. 278k(a)).

3 (2) DATABASE.—The term “Database” means
4 the National Manufacturing Extension Partnership
5 Supply Chain Database established under subsection
6 (b).

7 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
8 the Director of the National Institute of Standards
9 and Technology.

10 (4) INSTITUTE.—The term “Institute” means
11 the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

12 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
14 appropriations, the Director shall establish a data-
15 base to assist the United States in minimizing dis-
16 ruptions in the supply chain by providing a resource
17 for manufacturers in the United States.

18 (2) DESIGNATION.—The database established
19 under paragraph (1) shall be known as the “Na-
20 tional Manufacturing Extension Partnership Supply
21 Chain Database”.

22 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the Database,
23 the Director shall consider the findings and recommenda-
24 tions from the study required under section 9413 of the
25 William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Author-

1 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283),
2 including measures to secure and protect the Database
3 from adversarial attacks and vulnerabilities.

4 (d) CONNECTIONS WITH HOLLINGS MANUFAC-
5 TURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIPS CENTERS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall create the
7 infrastructure for the Database through the Hollings
8 Manufacturing Extension Partnership, established
9 under section 25 of the National Institute of Stand-
10 ards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k), by con-
11 necting information from the Centers through the
12 Database.

13 (2) NATIONAL VIEW.—The Director shall en-
14 sure that connections under paragraph (1)—

15 (A) provide a national overview of the net-
16 works of supply chains of the United States;
17 and

18 (B) support understanding of whether
19 there is a need for some manufacturers to re-
20 tool in some critical areas to meet the urgent
21 need for key products, such as defense supplies,
22 food, and medical devices, including personal
23 protective equipment.

24 (3) INDIVIDUAL HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING
25 EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP CENTER DATABASES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall en-
2 sure that—

3 (i) each Center is connected to the
4 Database; and

5 (ii) each supply chain database main-
6 tained by a Center is interoperable with
7 the Database.

8 (B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
9 this section shall be construed to require a
10 State or territory of the United States to estab-
11 lish a new supply chain database through the
12 Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership
13 program.

14 (e) MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL SUPPLY CHAIN
15 DATABASE.—The Director, acting through the Hollings
16 Manufacturing Extension Partnership program or a des-
17 ignee of the program—

18 (1) shall maintain the Database as an integra-
19 tion of State-level databases from the Center of each
20 State or territory of the United States; and

21 (2) may populate the Database with informa-
22 tion from past, current, or potential clients of Cen-
23 ters.

24 (f) DATABASE CONTENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Database may include
2 the following:

3 (A) Basic company information.

4 (B) An overview of capabilities, accredita-
5 tions, and products.

6 (C) Proprietary information.

7 (D) Such other items as the Director con-
8 siders necessary.

9 (2) STANDARD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.—The
10 Database shall use the North American Industry
11 Classification System (NAICS) Codes as follows:

12 (A) Sector 31-33 – Manufacturing.

13 (B) Sector 54 – Professional, Scientific,
14 and Technical Services.

15 (C) Sector 48-49 – Transportation and
16 Warehousing.

17 (3) LEVELS.—The Database shall be multi-lev-
18 eled as follows:

19 (A) Level 1 shall have basic company in-
20 formation and shall be available to the public.

21 (B) Level 2 shall have a deeper, nonpropri-
22 etary overview into capabilities, products, and
23 accreditations and shall be available to all com-
24 panies that contribute to the Database and
25 agree to terms of mutual disclosure.

1 (C) Level 3 shall hold proprietary informa-
2 tion.

3 (4) MATTERS RELATING TO DISCLOSURE AND
4 ACCESS.—

5 (A) FOIA EXEMPTION.—The Database,
6 and any information contained therein that is
7 not publicly released by the Institute, shall be
8 exempt from public disclosure under section
9 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

10 (B) LIMITATION ON ACCESS TO CON-
11 TENT.—Access to a contributing company's
12 nonpublic content in the Database shall be lim-
13 ited to the contributing company, the Institute,
14 and staff from a Center who sign such non-
15 disclosure agreement as the Director considers
16 appropriate.

17 (C) AGGREGATED INFORMATION.—The Di-
18 rector may make aggregated, de-identified in-
19 formation available to contributing companies,
20 Centers, or the public, as the Director considers
21 appropriate, in support of the purposes of this
22 section.

23 (g) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
24 AND INDUSTRIAL BASE.—The Director, acting through
25 the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership pro-

1 gram, may work with the National Defense Technology
2 and Industrial Base Council established by section
3 2502(a) of title 10, United States Code, as the Director
4 considers appropriate, to include in the Database informa-
5 tion regarding the defense manufacturing supply chain.

6 (h) PROTECTIONS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Supply chain information
8 that is voluntarily and lawfully submitted by a pri-
9 vate entity and accompanied by an express state-
10 ment described in paragraph (2)—

11 (A) shall be exempt from disclosure under
12 section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code;

13 (B) shall not be made available pursuant
14 to any Federal, State, local, or Tribal authority
15 pursuant to any Federal, State, local, or Tribal
16 law requiring public disclosure of information or
17 records; and

18 (C) shall not, without the written consent
19 of the person or entity submitting such infor-
20 mation, be used directly by the Director, or any
21 other Federal, State, or local authority in any
22 civil enforcement action brought by a Federal,
23 State, or local authority.

1 (2) EXPRESS STATEMENT.—The express state-
2 ment described in this paragraph, with respect to in-
3 formation or records, is—

4 (A) in the case of written information or
5 records, a written marking on the information
6 or records substantially similar to the following:
7 “This information is voluntarily submitted to
8 the Federal Government in expectation of pro-
9 tection from disclosure as provided by the provi-
10 sions of section 2(h) of the National MEP Sup-
11 ply Chain Database Act of 2021.”; or

12 (B) in the case of oral information, a writ-
13 ten statement similar to the statement de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (A) submitted within a
15 reasonable period following the oral communica-
16 tion.

17 (i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

18 (1) PRIVATE ENTITIES.—Nothing in this sec-
19 tion shall be construed to require any private entity
20 to share data with the Director specifically for to the
21 Database.

22 (2) PROHIBITION ON NEW REGULATORY AU-
23 THORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be con-
24 strued to grant the Director, or the head of any
25 other Federal agency, with any authority to promul-

1 gate regulations or set standards on manufacturers,
2 based on data within the Database, that was not in
3 effect on the day before the date of enactment of
4 this section.

5 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated—

7 (1) \$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 to develop
8 and launch the Database; and

9 (2) \$26,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023
10 through 2026 to maintain, update, and support Fed-
11 eral coordination of the State supply chain databases
12 maintained by the Centers.