

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10281

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2024

Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. LIEU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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 2024”.

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 provide to Congress a briefing to assist in the
2 evaluation and identification of opportunities for
3 Federal Government support for industry-led efforts
4 in the development of technical standards for artificial
5 intelligence and other critical and emerging
6 technologies.

7 (2) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION.—In pre-
8 paring the briefing required by paragraph (1), the
9 Director shall consult with the heads of such Fed-
10 eral agencies as the Director considers relevant.

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

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

17 (i) Key technical standards that are
18 the subject of ongoing activity.

19 (ii) Key standards bodies hosting
20 these activities.

21 (iii) Any Federal agency that is par-
22 ticipating in these activities.

23 (B) An analysis identifying where partici-
24 pation by United States industry and Federal
25 agencies in standards activities in artificial in-

1 intelligence and other critical and emerging tech-
2 nologies would be facilitated or enhanced by
3 conducting standards meetings hosted in the
4 United States.

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

10 (4) FEDERAL AGENCY NOTICE REQUIRE-
11 MENT.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Using the mechanism
13 established pursuant to subparagraph (B), each
14 head of a Federal agency shall transmit to the
15 Director notice of the participation of their re-
16 spective Federal agency in a standards activity
17 relating to artificial intelligence and other crit-
18 ical and emerging technologies.

19 (B) MECHANISM.—The Director shall, in
20 coordination with the Director of the Office of
21 Management and Budget, develop a mechanism
22 for reporting participation by Federal agencies
23 in standards activities.

24 (b) WEB PORTAL.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to inform United
2 States industry and Federal agencies about existing
3 and ongoing international efforts to develop tech-
4 nical standards for artificial intelligence and other
5 critical and emerging technologies and opportunities
6 for participation in such efforts, the Director shall
7 establish an accessible web portal to help such indus-
8 try and agencies navigate and participate in such ef-
9 forts.

10 (2) CONTENTS.—The web portal established
11 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include regularly
12 updated lists of the following:

13 (A) International efforts described in para-
14 graph (1) and information on opportunities for
15 participation in such efforts.

16 (B) Information on accessing standards,
17 both in development and published, for artificial
18 intelligence and other critical and emerging
19 technologies.

20 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director may inter-
21 into such cooperative agreements with such non-
22 governmental organizations as the Director considers
23 appropriate to establish the web portal required by
24 paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT STANDARDS MEET-**
2 **INGS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND**
3 **OTHER CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECH-**
4 **NOLOGIES IN THE UNITED STATES.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and sub-
8 ject to the availability of appropriated funds, the Di-
9 rector shall, in coordination with the heads of such
10 other Federal agencies as the Director considers ap-
11 propriate, establish a pilot program on supporting
12 standards meetings for artificial intelligence and
13 other critical and emerging technologies in the
14 United States by awarding grants to eligible entities
15 described in subsection (b) hosting meetings of orga-
16 nizations described in paragraph (1) of such sub-
17 section to support the hosting of such meetings in
18 the United States.

19 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director may carry
20 out the pilot program required by paragraph (1) by
21 entering into such cooperative agreements with such
22 nongovernmental organizations as the Director con-
23 siders appropriate to establish and administer the
24 pilot program.

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

1 (1) an organization that is developing standards
2 and specifications for artificial intelligence and other
3 critical and emerging technologies for at least 1
4 technical standard that affects the interests of 1 or
5 more Federal agencies; or

6 (2) an entity that hosts an organization de-
7 scribed in paragraph (1).

8 (c) GRANTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot
10 program required by subsection (a), the Director
11 shall award grants to eligible entities to host meet-
12 ings as described in such subsection.

13 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-
14 ing a grant under this subsection to host a meeting
15 in the United States may use the amount of the
16 grant for such costs as the Director considers rea-
17 sonable for hosting the meeting in the United
18 States, but not more than fifty percent of antici-
19 pated cost of hosting the meeting and not more than
20 a maximum amount that the Director shall establish
21 for purposes of this subsection. Such costs may in-
22 clude the following:

23 (A) Costs related to the preparation and
24 planning of meetings described in subsection
25 (a).

1 (B) Meeting venue-related expenses.

2 (C) Such other costs that may support the
3 eligible entity in conducting a standards meet-
4 ing in the United States.

5 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deciding whether to
6 award a grant under this subsection to an eligible
7 entity to host a meeting, the Director may consider
8 the extent to which the eligible entity—

9 (A) is or hosts an organization that admin-
10 isters technical standards activity in artificial
11 intelligence and other critical and emerging
12 technologies that involves United States-based
13 participants, including but not limited to par-
14 ticipants from Federal agencies of the United
15 States;

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

18 (C) has a stable or growing participant
19 base.

20 (d) GUIDANCE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall develop
22 and periodically update guidance for the pilot pro-
23 gram carried out under this section.

1 (2) ELEMENTS.—The guidance developed and
2 updated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall cover the
3 following:

4 (A) Eligibility for grants awarded under
5 the pilot program.

6 (B) How grants are awarded under sub-
7 section (c).

8 (C) The duration and amounts of grants
9 awarded under subsection (c).

10 (D) The merit review process for the pilot
11 program.

12 (E) Priority areas for technical standards
13 activity.

14 (F) Means for recipients of grants under
15 the pilot program to report expenses relating to
16 costs described in subsection (c)(2)(D).

17 (G) Such additional matters as the Direc-
18 tor determines appropriate for purposes of the
19 pilot program.

20 (e) BRIEFINGS FOR CONGRESS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the third year of the
22 pilot program carried out under this section and in
23 each subsequent year of the pilot program, the Di-
24 rector shall provide Congress with a briefing on the
25 pilot program.

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

3 (A) An assessment of the effectiveness of
4 the pilot program with respect to improving the
5 hosting of standards meetings in the United
6 States.

7 (B) Identification of the recipients of
8 grants under the pilot program.

9 (C) The geographic distribution of
10 attendees at meetings supported with grants
11 under the pilot program.

12 (D) A summary of the expenses for which
13 the amounts of grants awarded under the pilot
14 program were used.

15 (f) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERMANENT IMPLE-
16 MENTATION.—If, before the date that is 2 years after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director determines
18 that providing support as described in subsection (a) is
19 feasible and advisable, the Director shall, not later than
20 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act—

21 (1) develop recommendations for such legisla-
22 tive or administrative action as the Director con-
23 siders appropriate to establish a permanent imple-
24 mentation of the pilot program; and

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

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

6 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 \$5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through
9 2028.

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