

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 5024

To require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program on establishing a geospatial workforce development program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

Mr. SCHMITT introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program on establishing a geospatial workforce development program, 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 Geospatial  
5 Innovation Hub Advancement Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON ESTABLISHING A GEOSPATIAL**  
7 **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense  
2 shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasi-  
3 bility and advisability of establishing a program to  
4 develop a skilled workforce in geospatial tech-  
5 nologies, methodologies, and capabilities to support  
6 the defense intelligence requirements of the Depart-  
7 ment of Defense.

8           (2) DESIGNATION.—The pilot program carried  
9 out pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be known as the  
10 “Geospatial Workforce Pilot Program” (in this sec-  
11 tion the “Pilot Program”).

12          (b) GOALS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program, the  
13 Secretary shall seek—

14           (1) to assess the demand for geospatial tech-  
15 nology skills in both military and civilian sectors in  
16 proximity to facilities of the National Geospatial-In-  
17 telligence Agency in the United States;

18           (2) to expand, align, and accelerate the edu-  
19 cation, training, and certification of a geospatial  
20 workforce;

21           (3) to support a global research hub for  
22 geospatial science and technology;

23           (4) to foster partnerships with secondary and  
24 postsecondary educational institutions, industry

1 leaders, and local governments to support the work-  
2 force development;

3 (5) to increase employment opportunities and  
4 economic growth in regions that are in proximity to  
5 National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency locations in  
6 the United States through enhanced geospatial capa-  
7 bilities; and

8 (6) to support Department of Defense oper-  
9 ations and infrastructure with a skilled geospatial  
10 workforce.

11 (c) LOCATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In selecting a location for  
13 the pilot program required under subsection (a), the  
14 Secretary shall prioritize a location—

15 (A) where the Secretary can partner with  
16 an eligible institution of higher education  
17 that—

18 (i) conducts research;

19 (ii) is in close proximity to National  
20 Geospatial-Intelligence Agency facilities  
21 outside of the National Capital Region;

22 (iii) offers programs of education in  
23 geospatial or related matters; and

24 (iv) has a demonstrated ability build  
25 the professional workforce, by impacting

1 kindergarten through college learning and  
2 beyond, as demonstrated by an educational  
3 partnership agreement and a collaborative  
4 research and development agreement with  
5 the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agen-  
6 cy;

7 (B) that has a significant presence of De-  
8 partment of Defense installations or related ac-  
9 tivities; and

10 (C) that demonstrates a strong potential to  
11 recruit from a broad spectrum of academic can-  
12 didates for growth in geospatial technology sec-  
13 tors.

14 (2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-  
15 CATION.—For purposes of the Pilot Program, an eli-  
16 gible institution of higher education is an institution  
17 of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the  
18 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001))  
19 that—

20 (A) is an institution of higher education  
21 described in paragraph (1)(A);

22 (B) has a demonstrated capacity for re-  
23 search and development in geospatial tech-  
24 nologies; and

1           (C) engages in partnerships with local  
2           schools and community organizations to pro-  
3           mote geospatial education at all levels.

4           (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out the Pilot  
5 Program, the Secretary shall—

6           (1) collaborate with local and regional edu-  
7           cational institutions, including public research insti-  
8           tutions, to develop curriculum and training modules  
9           tailored to geospatial technology skills;

10          (2) engage with industry partners to ensure the  
11          training meets current and future workforce de-  
12          mands;

13          (3) provide funding and resources for training  
14          facilities, instructors, and materials; and

15          (4) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of  
16          the training programs and make necessary adjust-  
17          ments to improve outcomes.

18          (e) CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary  
19 shall ensure that participation in the Pilot Program is lim-  
20 ited to citizens of the United States.

21          (f) TERMINATION.—The requirement to carry out a  
22 pilot program under subsection (a) shall terminate on Sep-  
23 tember 30, 2030.

24          (g) REPORTS.—

1           (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days  
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3 retary shall submit to the congressional defense com-  
4 mittees a report on the establishment of the Pilot  
5 Program.

6           (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—(A) Not later than one  
7 year after the date of the commencement of the  
8 Pilot Program, and not less frequently than once  
9 each year thereafter through fiscal year 2030, the  
10 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed  
11 Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed  
12 Services of the House of Representatives an annual  
13 report on the Pilot Program.

14           (B) Each report submitted pursuant to sub-  
15 paragraph (A) shall include, for the period covered  
16 by the report, the following with respect to the goals  
17 of subsection (b):

18                   (i) An assessment of the demand for  
19 geospatial technology skills.

20                   (ii) The progress in developing and imple-  
21 menting the Pilot Program.

22                   (iii) Employment outcomes and economic  
23 impact.

24                   (iv) Recommendations for expanding or  
25 modifying the Pilot Program.

1           (h) DEFINITION OF CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COM-  
2 MITTEES.—In this section, the term “congressional de-  
3 fense committees” has the meaning given such term in  
4 section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

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