

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4718

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint training pipeline between the United States Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2022

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. COTTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint training pipeline between the United States Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, 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 “Australia-United
5 States Submarine Officer Pipeline Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT TRAINING PIPELINE BE-**
2 **TWEEN UNITED STATES NAVY AND ROYAL**
3 **AUSTRALIAN NAVY.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that—

6 (1) the AUKUS partnership between Australia,
7 the United Kingdom, and the United States presents
8 a significant opportunity to enhance security co-
9 operation in the Indo-Pacific region;

10 (2) parties to the AUKUS partnership should
11 work expeditiously to implement a strategic roadmap
12 to successfully deliver capabilities outlined in the
13 agreement;

14 (3) the United States should engage with indus-
15 try partners to develop a comprehensive under-
16 standing of the requirements needed to increase ca-
17 pacity and capability;

18 (4) Australia should continue to expand its in-
19 dustrial base to support production and delivery of
20 future capabilities;

21 (5) the delivery of a nuclear-powered submarine
22 to the Government of Australia would require the
23 appropriate training and development of future com-
24 manding officers to operate such submarines for the
25 Royal Australian Navy; and

1 (6) in order to uphold the stewardship of the
2 Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, the Secretary of
3 Defense should work to coordinate an exchange pro-
4 gram to integrate and train Australian sailors for
5 the operation and maintenance of nuclear-powered
6 submarines.

7 (b) EXCHANGE PROGRAM.—The Secretary of De-
8 fense, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall
9 carry out an exchange program for Australian submarine
10 officers during 2023 and each subsequent year. Under the
11 program, each year, two Australian submarine officers
12 shall be selected to participate in the program. Each such
13 participant shall—

14 (1) receive training in the Navy Nuclear Pro-
15 pulsion School;

16 (2) following such training and by not later
17 than July 1 of the year of participation, enroll in the
18 Submarine Office Basic Course; and

19 (3) following completion of such course, be as-
20 signed to duty on an operational United States sub-
21 marine at sea.

22 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
23 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
24 shall submit to the congressional defense committees (as
25 defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code)

1 a report on a notional exchange program for Australian
2 submarine officers that includes initial, follow-on, and re-
3 curring training that could be provided to Australian sub-
4 marine officers in order to prepare such officers for com-
5 mand of nuclear-powered Australian submarines.

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