

Rural Hospital Cybersecurity Enhancement Act
Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO), Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH),
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ),
Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA), and Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA)

Section-by-Section Summary

Section 1: Short Title. This section says that the bill is called the “Rural Hospital Cybersecurity Enhancement Act.”

Section 2: Definitions. This section establishes definitions for the terms “agency,” “appropriate committees of Congress,” “geographic division,” “rural hospital,” and “Secretary.”

Section 3. Rural Hospital Cybersecurity Workforce Development Strategy.

Section 3(a) requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop and transmit to appropriate committees of Congress a rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy within one year.

Section 3(b) allows the HHS Secretary to consult with appropriate agency heads in developing the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy. This subsection also requires the HHS Secretary to consult with at least two representatives of rural healthcare providers from each geographic division in the United States.

Section 3(c) requires that the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy consider a host of components including, but not limited to, rural-hospital partnerships to develop, promote, and expand the rural hospital cybersecurity workforce; the development of a cybersecurity curriculum and teaching resources; and the identification of cybersecurity workforce challenges that are specific to rural hospitals and common practices to mitigate those challenges.

Section 3(d) requires the HHS Secretary, following the transmission of the completed rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy to Congress, to provide a briefing to Congress includes updates to the strategy, any programs or initiatives established pursuant to the strategy and the number of individuals served, additional policy recommendations, and the effectiveness of the strategy in addressing the need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in rural hospitals.

Section 4. Instructional Materials for Rural Hospitals. This section requires the HHS Secretary to, within one year, make available instructional materials for rural hospitals that can be used to train staff on fundamental cybersecurity efforts and conduct an awareness campaign to promote those materials.

Section 5. No Additional Funds. This section states that no additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of carrying out this bill.