

NAPE PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORMS



H.R. 1592: Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act

Summary

Introduced by the bipartisan Co-Chairs of the Congressional CTE Caucus, the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act aims to develop a critical infrastructure workforce that is versed in the threats facing their industries as well as steps they can take to protect their systems.

Many occupations in critical infrastructure sectors have a strong safety culture, which is reflected in the CTE programs that prepare students to succeed in these fields. However, despite the real harm to person and property that can result from cyber intrusions on operational technology (OT) networks, cybersecurity is rarely covered during safety training. OT, as opposed to information technology (IT), encompasses supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, industrial control systems (ICS), and other systems that control physical processes or equipment such as conveyor belts, pumps, or turbines. The safety and security of America's infrastructure and economy will depend upon a highly skilled cybersecurity workforce. Addressing the nation's current cybersecurity skills gap requires an investment that aligns CTE and cybersecurity education.

The bill authorizes \$10 million to create a competitive grant program within the Department of Education to incorporate cybersecurity education into new or existing CTE programs. Partnerships between educational institutions and local employers will be eligible to apply. The bill also requires the Secretary of Education to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees defense of the nation's 16 critical infrastructure sectors, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which through its National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) promotes a robust ecosystem of cybersecurity education and training.

Why Is This Important to NAPE?

As the world shifts to a digital framework, cybersecurity is integrated in every aspect of our lives, at home and at work. The alignment of academic and technical knowledge that comes with cybersecurity education

provides the fundamental competencies required to ensure needed employability skills in EVERY career field. By incorporating cybersecurity education into the CTE curriculum, we will significantly increase equitable and accessible workforce opportunities in government and industry for every student while elevating the importance of maintaining “real-world” security in our public and private lives.

Current Status

Introduced by Congressman Jim Langevin and Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson, bipartisan co-chairs of the Congressional CTE Caucus, in early March 2019, the bill has been referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. Currently there is no companion legislation in the Senate.