

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3811

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the processes of international standards-setting with respect to internet-connected devices, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2019

Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. McCAUL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the processes of international standards-setting with respect to internet-connected devices, 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 “IoT Standards Leader-
5 ship Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) United States policy has allowed industry in
2 the United States to innovate and lead the global
3 technology sector;

4 (2) as governments have sought to use country-
5 specific standards to hinder the innovation and in-
6 fluence of United States technology, the United
7 States should demonstrate leadership and be a vocal
8 supporter of the open, voluntary, consensus-based
9 international standards system;

10 (3) the United States should support multi-
11 stakeholder standards-development processes and ro-
12 bust involvement in international standards-setting
13 bodies and organizations with respect to internet-
14 connected devices (commonly known as the “Internet
15 of Things” or “IoT”);

16 (4) the United States should support standards
17 that enable interoperability among devices and sys-
18 tems and are country-agnostic and vendor-neutral;

19 (5) the United States should maintain and fos-
20 ter United States leadership in international stand-
21 ards-setting bodies and organizations with respect to
22 internet-connected devices;

23 (6) the United States should work with govern-
24 ments and nongovernmental stakeholders to deter
25 the establishment of government-driven, country-spe-

1 cific standards, which can be detrimental to inter-
2 operability and security;

3 (7) the convergence of traditional information
4 technology devices, networks, and systems with
5 internet-connected devices, networks, and systems,
6 including consumer and industrial internet-connected
7 devices, networks, and systems, may create cyberse-
8 curity and interoperability challenges, including
9 cyber exposure gap challenges, with respect to which
10 United States leadership in international standards-
11 setting bodies and organizations can lead to stronger
12 protection of networks to support the security of
13 internet-connected devices; and

14 (8) the United States should support standards-
15 development processes for internet-connected device
16 security that focus on prioritized, flexible, repeat-
17 able, performance-based, and cost-effective ap-
18 proaches to cyber hygiene and managing risk.

19 **SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT.**

20 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Commerce shall con-
21 duct a study of the international standards-setting bodies
22 and organizations that set standards with respect to inter-
23 net-connected devices and of the appropriate means to en-
24 sure robust United States leadership in the processes of

1 such bodies and organizations. In conducting the study,
2 the Secretary shall assess—

3 (1) the involvement of the United States in
4 such processes;

5 (2) efforts of countries to create country-spe-
6 cific standards with respect to internet-connected de-
7 vices that are not aligned with international stand-
8 ards-setting processes and international standards;

9 (3) the progress, if any, that has been made in
10 developing international standards with respect to
11 internet-connected devices;

12 (4) how to support consistent United States
13 private and public sector participation in such bodies
14 and organizations; and

15 (5) the extent to which international standards
16 for internet-connected devices focus on prioritized,
17 flexible, repeatable, performance-based, and cost-ef-
18 fective approaches to cyber hygiene and managing
19 risk.

20 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
22 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
23 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
24 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that
25 contains—

1 (1) the results of the study required by sub-
2 section (a);

3 (2) recommendations to promote the leadership
4 of the United States and all relevant nongovern-
5 mental stakeholders in the processes of international
6 standards-setting bodies and organizations for set-
7 ting standards with respect to internet-connected de-
8 vices; and

9 (3) an assessment of whether and how the lead-
10 ership of the Secretary, working with governmental
11 and nongovernmental stakeholders, can—

12 (A) promote and strengthen international
13 standards with respect to internet-connected de-
14 vices; and

15 (B) discourage the development of country-
16 specific standards with respect to internet-con-
17 nected devices that could hinder interoperability
18 and security.

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) **CYBER EXPOSURE GAP.**—The term “cyber
22 exposure gap” means the cybersecurity and vulner-
23 ability management challenges organizations face in
24 seeing and understanding cybersecurity risk across
25 the full range of internet-connected platforms of

1 such organizations, including information tech-
2 nology, internet-connected devices, operational tech-
3 nology, mobile, and cloud computing platforms.

4 (2) INTERNET-CONNECTED DEVICE.—The term
5 “internet-connected device” means a physical object
6 that—

7 (A) is capable of connecting to the inter-
8 net, either directly or indirectly through a net-
9 work, to communicate information;

10 (B) has computer-processing capabilities
11 for collecting, sending, receiving, or analyzing
12 data; and

13 (C) is not a general-purpose computing de-
14 vice, including a personal computing system or
15 a smart mobile communications device.

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