To provide for certain programs and developments in the Department of Energy concerning the cybersecurity and vulnerabilities of, and physical threats to, the electric grid, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. McNerney introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ______________________

A BILL

To provide for certain programs and developments in the Department of Energy concerning the cybersecurity and vulnerabilities of, and physical threats to, the electric grid, 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 “Enhancing Grid Security through Public-Private Partnerships Act”.

April 22, 2021 (10:48 a.m.)
SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE PHYSICAL
SECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies and in consultation with State regulatory authorities, industry stakeholders, and the Electric Reliability Organization, as the Secretary determines appropriate, shall carry out a program to—

(1) develop, and provide for voluntary implementation of, maturity models, self-assessments, and auditing methods for assessing the physical security and cybersecurity of electric utilities;

(2) provide training to electric utilities to address and mitigate cybersecurity supply chain management risks;

(3) increase opportunities for sharing best practices and data collection within the electric sector;

(4) assist with cybersecurity training for electric utilities;

(5) advance the cybersecurity of third-party vendors that work in partnerships with electric utilities; and

(6) provide technical assistance for electric utilities subject to the program.
(b) SCOPE.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) take into consideration different sizes of electric utilities and the regions that such electric utilities serve;

(2) prioritize electric utilities with fewer available resources due to size or region; and

(3) to the extent practicable, utilize and leverage existing Department of Energy programs.

(c) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Information provided to, or collected by, the Federal Government pursuant to this section—

(1) shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) shall not be made available by any Federal, State, political subdivision or tribal authority pursuant to any Federal, State, political subdivision, or tribal law requiring public disclosure of information or records.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies and in consultation with State regulatory authorities, industry stakeholders, and the Electric Reliability Organization, as the
Secretary determines appropriate, shall submit to Congress a report that assesses—

(1) priorities, policies, procedures, and actions for enhancing the physical security and cybersecurity of electricity distribution systems to address threats to, and vulnerabilities of, such electricity distribution systems; and

(2) implementation of such priorities, policies, procedures, and actions, including an estimate of potential costs and benefits of such implementation, including any public-private cost-sharing opportunities.

(b) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Information provided to, or collected by, the Federal Government pursuant to this section—

(1) shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) shall not be made available by any Federal, State, political subdivision or tribal authority pursuant to any Federal, State, political subdivision, or tribal law requiring public disclosure of information or records.

SEC. 4. ELECTRICITY INTERRUPTION INFORMATION.

(a) INTERRUPTION COST ESTIMATE CALCULATOR.—

The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies and in consultation with State regulatory
authorities, industry stakeholders, and the Electric Reliability Organization, as the Secretary determines appropriate, shall update the Interruption Cost Estimate Calculator, as often as appropriate and feasible, but not less than once every 2 years.

(b) INDICES.—The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies and in consultation with State regulatory authorities, industry stakeholders, and the Electric Reliability Organization, as the Secretary determines appropriate, shall, as often as appropriate and feasible, update the following:

(1) The System Average Interruption Duration Index.

(2) The System Average Interruption Frequency Index.

(3) The Customer Average Interruption Duration Index.

(c) SURVEY.—The Administrator of the Energy Information Administration shall collect information on electricity interruption costs, if available, from a representative sample of owners of electric grid assets through a biennial survey.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In the Act, the following definitions apply:
(1) Electric Reliability Organization.—

The term “Electric Reliability Organization” has the meaning given such term in section 215(a)(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(a)(2)).

(2) Electric utility.—The term “electric utility” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

(3) State regulatory authority.—The term “State regulatory authority” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).