

Technology Workforce Framework Act of 2023 (S. XXXX)

The National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Framework, codified in law several years ago, is developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and establishes a common lexicon that describes cybersecurity jobs and skills regardless of where or for whom the work is performed. The NICE Framework is used globally by the public, private, and academic sectors to help train and hire cybersecurity professionals. The *AI and Critical Technology Workforce Framework Act* builds on the success of the NICE framework by expanding NIST's authorities to develop workforce frameworks for other emerging and critical technology areas, including Artificial Intelligence (AI). Developing frameworks such as this will ensure that schools, universities, employers, and others are able to position the country to educate, train, and employ the workforce of the future.

The AI and Critical Technology Workforce Framework Act drives the transformation, advancement and competitiveness of the Nation's STEM workforce.

The bill would authorize NIST to create frameworks like NICE (which is just for cybersecurity) that apply to other critical and emerging technology areas. The bill would direct NIST to specifically develop an Artificial Intelligence (AI) workforce framework and identify and report to Congress on other critical or emerging technology areas that could benefit from workforce frameworks. As technology continues to evolve, this legislation will ensure that similar frameworks for AI, advanced biology, quantum science, and other emerging technologies are developed to ensure we're positioned to develop and retain skilled individuals across industries.

The AI and Critical Technology Workforce Framework Act also requires updates be made to the NICE Cyber framework, and ensures resources are available to students and adults on cybersecurity careers.

Cybersecurity is constantly evolving and adapting with new skills, work roles, and knowledge required and repeated investment in education and training to stay up to date. This bill would require the NICE cybersecurity framework be updated with input from industry, academia, and government agencies. Additionally, this bill would invest in the STEM workforce by requiring NIST to offer career exploration opportunities for Kindergarten through adult learners.

The Technology Workforce Framework Act of 2023:

- ✓ Expands NIST's functions to develop STEM workforce frameworks and workforce categorizations.
- ✓ Requires NIST to update the current NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework, create an artificial intelligence workforce framework, and develop resources for kindergarten through adult learners.
- ✓ Directs NIST to periodically conduct studies and gap analysis on its STEM workforce frameworks and categorizations to remain strategic with national STEM workforce development.