

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6292

To direct the Department of Defense to report to Congress on the potential integration of advanced propulsion systems into F-35 aircraft, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 14, 2021

Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself and Mr. TURNER) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To direct the Department of Defense to report to Congress on the potential integration of advanced propulsion systems into F-35 aircraft, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Fighter propulsion is one of the few areas  
6 in which the United States maintains a clear advan-  
7 tage over near-peer adversaries, specifically China  
8 and its threat to the Indo-Pacific region.

1           (2) The F-35 will be one of the key elements  
2           of the frontline fighter forces of the military services  
3           and United States allies and partners for decades to  
4           come.

5           (3) Failure to develop an adaptive cycle engine  
6           and make it available for production on the F-35  
7           would constitute a missed opportunity and open a  
8           door for United States adversaries to overtake field-  
9           ed engine technology.

10          (4) Maintaining a strong industrial base and  
11          competition is critical to supporting the National  
12          Defense Strategy.

13 **SEC. 2. ADAPTIVE ENGINE TRANSITION PROGRAM ACQUI-**  
14 **SITION STRATEGY FOR THE F-35A AIRCRAFT.**

15          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
16          date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the  
17          Air Force, in consultation with the Under Secretary of De-  
18          fense for Acquisition and Sustainment, shall submit to the  
19          congressional defense committees a report on the integra-  
20          tion of the Adaptive Engine Transition Program propul-  
21          sion system into the F-35A aircraft.

22          (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-  
23          section (a) shall include the following:

24                  (1) A competitive acquisition strategy, informed  
25                  by fiscal considerations, to—

1 (A) integrate the Adaptive Engine Transi-  
2 tion Program propulsion system into the F-35A  
3 aircraft; and

4 (B) begin, in fiscal year 2027, activities to  
5 retrofit all F-35A aircraft with such propulsion  
6 system.

7 (2) An implementation plan to implement such  
8 strategy.

9 (3) A schedule annotating pertinent milestones  
10 and yearly fiscal resource requirements for the im-  
11 plementation of such strategy.

12 **SEC. 3. ADVANCED PROPULSION SYSTEM ACQUISITION**  
13 **STRATEGY FOR THE F-35B AND F-35C AIR-**  
14 **CRAFT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the  
17 Navy, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Defense  
18 for Acquisition and Sustainment, shall submit to the con-  
19 gressional defense committees a report on the integration  
20 of an advanced propulsion system into F-35B and F-35C  
21 aircraft.

22 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-  
23 section (a) shall include the following:

24 (1) An analysis of the effects of an advanced  
25 propulsion system on the combat effectiveness and

1 sustainment costs of F-35B and F-35C aircraft, in-  
2 cluding any effects resulting from—

3 (A) increased thrust, fuel efficiency, ther-  
4 mal capacity, and electrical generation; and

5 (B) improvements in acceleration, speed,  
6 range, and overall mission effectiveness.

7 (2) An assessment of how the integration of an  
8 advanced propulsion system may result in—

9 (A) a reduction in dependency on support  
10 assets, including air refueling and replenish-  
11 ment tankers; and

12 (B) an overall cost benefit to the Depart-  
13 ment from reduced acquisition and sustainment  
14 for such support assets.

15 (3) A competitive acquisition strategy informed  
16 by fiscal considerations, the assessment of combat  
17 effectiveness under paragraph (1), and consideration  
18 of technical limitations—

19 (A) to integrate an advanced propulsion  
20 system into F-35B aircraft and F-35C air-  
21 craft;

22 (B) to begin, not later than fiscal year  
23 2027, activities to produce all F-35B aircraft  
24 and all F-35C aircraft with such propulsion  
25 systems; and

1 (C) to begin, not later than fiscal year  
2 2027, activities to retrofit all F-35B aircraft  
3 and all F-35C aircraft with such propulsion  
4 systems.

5 (c) ADVANCED PROPULSION SYSTEM DEFINED.—In  
6 this section, term “advanced propulsion system” means—  
7 (1) a derivative of the propulsion system devel-  
8 oped for the F-35 aircraft under the Adaptive En-  
9 gine Transition Program of the Air Force; or  
10 (2) a derivative of a propulsion system pre-  
11 viously developed for the F-35 aircraft.

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