

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 1735
OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA**

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following
new section:

1 **SEC. 5___ . PRELIMINARY MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS**
2 **FOR INDIVIDUALS BECOMING MEMBERS OF**
3 **THE ARMED FORCES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 31 of title 10, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new section:

7 **“§ 520d. Preliminary mental health screenings**

8 “(a) PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING.—
9 Before any individual enlists in an armed force or is com-
10 missioned as an officer in an armed force, the Secretary
11 concerned shall provide the individual with a mental health
12 screening.

13 “(b) USE OF SCREENING.—(1) The Secretary shall
14 use the results of a mental screening conducted under sub-
15 section (a) as a baseline for any subsequent mental health
16 examinations of the individual, including such examina-
17 tions provided under sections 1074f and 1074m of this
18 title.

1 “(2) The Secretary may not consider the results of
2 a mental health screening conducted under subsection (a)
3 in determining the promotion of a member of the armed
4 forces.

5 “(c) APPLICATION OF PRIVACY LAWS.—With respect
6 to applicable laws and regulations relating to the privacy
7 of information, the Secretary shall treat a mental health
8 screening conducted under subsection (a) in the same
9 manner as the medical records of a member of the armed
10 forces.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
12 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
13 after the item relating to section 520c the following new
14 item:

 “520d. Preliminary mental health screenings.”.

15 (c) REPORTS.—

16 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
18 days after the date of the enactment of this
19 Act, the National Institute of Mental Health of
20 the National Institutes of Health shall submit
21 to Congress and the Secretary of Defense a re-
22 port on preliminary mental health screenings of
23 members of the Armed Forces.

1 (B) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report
2 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
3 lowing:

4 (i) Recommendations with respect to
5 establishing a preliminary mental health
6 screening of members of the Armed Forces
7 to bring mental health screenings to parity
8 with physical screenings of members.

9 (ii) Recommendations with respect to
10 the composition of the mental health
11 screening, evidenced-based best practices,
12 and how to track changes in mental health
13 screenings relating to traumatic brain inju-
14 ries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and
15 other conditions.

16 (C) COORDINATION.—The National Insti-
17 tute of Mental Health shall carry out subpara-
18 graph (A) in coordination with the Secretary of
19 Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and
20 Human Services, the surgeons general of the
21 military departments, and other relevant ex-
22 perts.

23 (2) REPORTS ON EFFICACY OF SCREENINGS.—

24 (A) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Not later
25 than one year after the date on which the Sec-

1 retary of Defense begins providing preliminary
2 mental health screenings under section 520d(a)
3 of title 10, United States Code, as added by
4 subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to
5 Congress a report on the efficacy of such pre-
6 liminary mental health screenings.

7 (B) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later
8 than one year after the submittal of the report
9 under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller Gen-
10 eral of the United States shall submit to Con-
11 gress a report on the efficacy of the preliminary
12 mental health screenings described in such sub-
13 paragraph.

14 (C) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The reports re-
15 quired by subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall in-
16 clude the following:

17 (i) An evaluation of the evidence-
18 based best practices used by the Secretary
19 in composing and conducting preliminary
20 mental health screenings of members of
21 the Armed Forces under such section
22 520d(a).

23 (ii) An evaluation of the evidence-
24 based best practices used by the Secretary
25 in tracking changes in mental health

1 screenings relating to traumatic brain inju-
2 ries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and
3 other conditions among members of the
4 Armed Forces.

5 (d) IMPLEMENTATION OF PRELIMINARY MENTAL
6 HEALTH SCREENING.—The Secretary of Defense may not
7 provide a preliminary mental health screening under sec-
8 tion 520d(a) of title 10, United States Code, as added by
9 subsection (a), until the Secretary receives and evaluates
10 the initial report required by subsection (c)(1).

11 (e) REPORT ON EFFICACY OF PHYSICAL EXAMINA-
12 TIONS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES
13 UPON SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE DUTY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report
17 on the efficacy of the mental health components of
18 the physical examinations provided under paragraph
19 (5) of section 1145(a) of title 10, United States
20 Code, to members of the Armed Forces who are sep-
21 arated from active duty as described in paragraph
22 (2) of such section.

23 (2) EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The re-
24 port required by paragraph (1) shall include an eval-

1 uation of the effectiveness of the physical examina-
2 tions described in such subsection in—

3 (A) identifying members of the Armed
4 Forces with traumatic brain injury, post-trau-
5 matic stress disorder, and other mental health
6 conditions; and

7 (B) ensuring that health care is provided
8 for such members.

