

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT  
OF H.R. 4310  
OFFERED BY MR. HOLT OF NEW JERSEY**

At the end of subtitle F of title X insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 1069. FEDERAL MORTUARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY COM-**  
2 **MISSION.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Fed-  
4 eral Mortuary Affairs Advisory Commission.

5 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Commission shall  
6 be to advise the President, the Secretary of Defense, the  
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Congress on the best  
8 practices for casualty notification, family support, and  
9 mortuary affairs operations so as to ensure prompt notifi-  
10 cation and compassionate and responsive support for fami-  
11 lies who have lost servicemembers, and for the honorable  
12 and dignified disposition of the remains of fallen  
13 servicemembers.

14 (c) SCOPE.—Within the Department of Defense and  
15 the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Commission shall  
16 examine, on an ongoing basis, all matters that encompass  
17 the notification of family members on the death of a serv-  
18 icemember in said family; all family support programs,

1 policies, and procedures designed to assist affected fami-  
2 lies; and all aspects of mortuary affairs operations, includ-  
3 ing the final disposition of fallen servicemembers.

4 (d) COMPOSITION.—

5 (1) MEMBERS.—The Commission shall consist  
6 of 13 members, appointed as follows:

7 (A) One member appointed by the Presi-  
8 dent of the United States.

9 (B) One member appointed by the Speaker  
10 of the House of Representatives.

11 (C) One member appointed by the Minor-  
12 ity Leader of the House of Representatives.

13 (D) One member appointed by the Major-  
14 ity Leader of the Senate.

15 (E) One member appointed by the Minor-  
16 ity Leader of the Senate.

17 (F) One member appointed by the Chair-  
18 man of the House Committee on Veterans Af-  
19 fairs.

20 (G) One member appointed by the Ranking  
21 Member of the House Committee on Veterans  
22 Affairs.

23 (H) One member appointed by the Chair-  
24 man of the House Committee on Armed Serv-  
25 ices.

1 (I) One member appointed by the Ranking  
2 Member of the House Committee on Armed  
3 Services.

4 (J) One member appointed by the Chair-  
5 man of the Senate Committee on Veterans Af-  
6 fairs.

7 (K) One member appointed by the Rank-  
8 ing Member of the Senate Committee on Vet-  
9 erans Affairs.

10 (L) One member appointed by the Chair-  
11 man of the Senate Committee on Armed Serv-  
12 ices.

13 (M) One member appointed by the Chair-  
14 man of the Senate Committee on Armed Serv-  
15 ices.

16 (2) TERM.—Each member shall serve a term of  
17 three years.

18 (3) MEETINGS AND QUORUM.—After its initial  
19 meeting, the Commission shall meet upon the call of  
20 the chairman or a majority of its members. Seven  
21 members of the Commission shall constitute a  
22 quorum.

23 (4) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—Upon  
24 convening for its first meeting, the Commission

1 members shall elect by majority vote a chairman and  
2 vice chairman of the Commission.

3 (5) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Commis-  
4 sion shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in  
5 the same manner in which the original appointment  
6 was made.

7 (e) QUALIFICATIONS.—

8 (1) POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION.—Not more  
9 than 5 members of the Commission shall be from  
10 the same political party.

11 (2) NONGOVERNMENTAL APPOINTEES.—An in-  
12 dividual appointed to the Commission may not be an  
13 officer or employee of the Federal Government.

14 (3) OTHER QUALIFICATIONS.—At least four in-  
15 dividuals appointed to the Commission should in-  
16 clude family members who have direct experience  
17 dealing with the loss of a servicemember that in-  
18 volved interactions with the Dover Port Mortuary.  
19 At least three individuals should have extensive pri-  
20 vate or public sector experience in mortuary science,  
21 operations, procedures, and decorum.

22 (f) DURATION.—The Commission shall have a 5 year  
23 duration, beginning after the last member of the Commis-  
24 sion is appointed

1 (g) MEETINGS AND REPORTS.—The Commission  
2 shall hold regular public meetings, notification of which  
3 shall appear in the Federal Register and on the Commis-  
4 sion’s website. Not less than annually, the Commission  
5 shall provide a written report to the President, the Sec-  
6 retary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and  
7 Congress on—

8 (1) recommendations for improving casualty no-  
9 tification, family support, and remains disposition;  
10 and

11 (2) progress, or lack thereof, by the Depart-  
12 ment of Defense and the Department of Veterans  
13 Affairs in acting upon prior recommendations of the  
14 Commission. Said report shall also be posted on the  
15 Commission’s website for public inspection.

16 (h) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission is author-  
18 ized to secure directly from any executive depart-  
19 ment, bureau, agency, board, Commission, office,  
20 independent establishment, or instrumentality of the  
21 Government, information, suggestions, estimates,  
22 and statistics for the purposes of this title. Each de-  
23 partment, bureau, agency, board, Commission, of-  
24 fice, independent establishment, or instrumentality  
25 shall, to the extent authorized by law, furnish such

1 information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics di-  
2 rectly to the Commission, upon request made by the  
3 chairman, the chairman of any subcommission cre-  
4 ated by a majority of the Commission, or any mem-  
5 ber designated by a majority of the Commission.

6 (2) RECEIPT, HANDLING, STORAGE, AND DIS-  
7 SEMINATION.—Information shall only be received,  
8 handled, stored, and disseminated by members of  
9 the Commission and its staff consistent with all ap-  
10 plicable statutes, regulations, and Executive orders.

11 (i) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

12 (1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—  
13 The Administrator of General Services shall provide  
14 to the Commission on a reimbursable basis adminis-  
15 trative support and other services for the perform-  
16 ance of the Commission's functions.

17 (2) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In  
18 addition to the assistance prescribed in paragraph  
19 (1), departments and agencies of the United States  
20 may provide to the Commission such services, funds,  
21 facilities, staff, and other support services as they  
22 may determine advisable and as may be authorized  
23 by law.

24 (j) STAFF OF COMMISSION.—

1           (1) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—The  
2           chairman, in consultation with vice chairman, in ac-  
3           cordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission,  
4           may appoint and fix the compensation of a staff di-  
5           rector and such other personnel as may be necessary  
6           to enable the Commission to carry out its functions,  
7           without regard to the provisions of title 5, United  
8           States Code, governing appointments in the competi-  
9           tive service, and without regard to the provisions of  
10          chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such  
11          title relating to classification and General Schedule  
12          pay rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this  
13          subsection may exceed the equivalent of that payable  
14          for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule  
15          under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

16          (2) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

17                (A) IN GENERAL.—The executive director  
18                and any personnel of the Commission who are  
19                employees shall be employees under section  
20                2105 of title 5, United States Code, for pur-  
21                poses of chapters 63, 81, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89,  
22                and 90 of that title.

23                (B) MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.—Subpara-  
24                graph (A) shall not be construed to apply to  
25                members of the Commission.

1           (3) DETAILEES.—Any Federal Government em-  
2           ployee may be detailed to the Commission without  
3           reimbursement from the Commission, and such  
4           detailee shall retain the rights, status, and privileges  
5           of his or her regular employment without interrup-  
6           tion.

7           (4) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Commission  
8           is authorized to procure the services of experts and  
9           consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title  
10          5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the  
11          daily rate paid a person occupying a position at level  
12          IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of  
13          title 5, United States Code.

14          (k) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

15           (1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the  
16           Commission may be compensated at not to exceed  
17           the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay  
18           in effect for a position at level IV of the Executive  
19           Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United  
20           States Code, for each day during which that member  
21           is engaged in the actual performance of the duties  
22           of the Commission.

23           (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from  
24           their homes or regular places of business in the per-  
25           formance of services for the Commission, members

1 of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses,  
2 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the  
3 same manner as persons employed intermittently in  
4 the Government service are allowed expenses under  
5 section 5703(b) of title 5, United States Code.

In the table of contents in section 2(b), insert after  
the item relating to section 1068 the following new item:

Sec. 1069. Federal mortuary affairs advisory commission.

