AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 118–10
OFFERED BY M__.

Add at the end of subtitle C of title XVIII the following:

SEC. 1859. CRITICAL CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES OF THE ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.

(a) In general.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall allocate to the Academic Research Fleet funding to ensure the vessels of such Fleet have the critical cyberinfrastructure and communications capabilities necessary to conduct research.

(b) Activities.—Funding allocated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be used for the following:

(1) Hiring personnel with expertise in computing, network engineering, or cybersecurity.

(2) Ongoing training, support, and logistics,

(3) Acquisition of satellite communications equipment, bandwidth, or software licensing.

(4) Acquisition of appropriate or necessary equipment, including high performance computing...
clusters shipboard and shoreside, and enterprise hardware to reliably link such clusters.

(5) Satisfying additional requirements, as appropriate, that may develop as associated technology and research mission evolve.

c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the academic partners that manage vessels of the Academic Research Fleet, shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report of the Foundation’s plans to address the critical cybersecurity and communications needs of the Academic Research Fleet. Such report shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the costs necessary to provide the 18 vessels of such Fleet with cyberinfrastructure and communications capabilities, including information technology and operational technology infrastructure and capabilities, necessary for such vessels to be fully operational and secure.

(2) An assessment of the time required to ensure such vessels are so fully operational and secure.
(3) A plan to incorporate in the annual budget request of the Foundation the funding allocation described in such subsection.

(4) A plan to ensure that funding necessary to ensure satisfying the needs associated with such infrastructure and capabilities is incorporated into future planning for such Fleet and included in future budget requests of the Foundation.