

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

57

OFFERED BY MR. BERA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle J of title V add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . STUDY ON FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON**
2 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND BEST**
3 **PRACTICES TO PREVENT FUTURE FINANCIAL**
4 **HARDSHIPS.**

5 (a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct
6 a study on the financial hardships experienced by mem-
7 bers of the Armed Forces (including the reserve compo-
8 nents) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

9 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The study shall—

10 (1) examine the financial hardships members of
11 the Armed Forces experience as a result of the
12 COVID-19 pandemic, including the effects of stop
13 movement orders, loss of spousal income, loss of
14 hazardous duty incentive pay, school closures, loss of
15 childcare, loss of educational benefits, loss of drill
16 and exercise pay, cancelled deployments, and any ad-
17 ditional financial stressors identified by the Sec-
18 retary;

1 (2) recommend best practices to provide assist-
2 ance for members of the Armed Forces experiencing
3 the financial hardships listed in paragraph (1); and

4 (3) identify actions that can be taken by the
5 Secretary to prevent financial hardships listed in
6 paragraph (1) from occurring in the future.

7 (c) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—For the
8 purposes of the study, the Secretary shall—

9 (1) consult with the Director of the Consumer
10 Financial Protection Bureau; and

11 (2) with respect to members of the Coast
12 Guard, coordinate with the Secretary of Homeland
13 Security.

14 (d) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-
16 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report
17 on the study under subsection (a).

18 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

19 (1) the term “financial hardship” means a loss
20 of income or an unforeseen expense as a result of
21 closures and changes in operations in response to
22 the COVID-19 pandemic; and

1 (2) the term “appropriate congressional com-
2 mittees” means the Committees on Armed Services
3 of the Senate and House of Representatives.

