

**AMENDMENT TO**  
**RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-36**  
**OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA**

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

1 **SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_ . EVALUATION OF RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PRO-**  
2 **GRAMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
3 **FORCES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall  
5 conduct an in-depth evaluation of relocation assistance  
6 programs carried out under section 1056 of title 10,  
7 United States Code, and the use of such programs by  
8 members of the Armed Forces.

9 (b) ELEMENTS.—The evaluation required by sub-  
10 section (a) shall include the following:

11 (1) An analysis of whether the relocation assist-  
12 ance programs offered by the Department of De-  
13 fense as of the date of the enactment of this Act—

14 (A) conform to the requirements for such  
15 programs under section 1056 of title 10, United  
16 States Code; and

17 (B) meet the needs of members of the  
18 Armed Forces.

1           (2) An identification of the relocation assistance  
2 programs most frequently used by members, includ-  
3 ing an identification of the key factors that con-  
4 tribute to such usage.

5           (3) An identification of—

6                 (A) specific barriers faced by members in  
7 accessing effective relocation assistance; and

8                 (B) strategies to mitigate those barriers.

9           (4) An identification of a representative sample  
10 of military installations located in high-cost areas  
11 and, with respect to such installations, an assess-  
12 ment of the following:

13                 (A) The success of relocation assistance  
14 programs at such installations.

15                 (B) Partnerships between such installa-  
16 tions and local communities aimed at helping  
17 alleviate financial burdens for members, specifi-  
18 cally related to housing.

19                 (C) Housing supply for members, both ac-  
20 companied and unaccompanied by dependents,  
21 comparing supply with total need.

22           (5) An analysis of the support mechanisms  
23 available as of the date of the enactment of this Act  
24 for military families facing significant financial bur-

1       dens as a result of permanent changes of station to  
2       high-cost areas.

3       (c) CONSULTATIONS.—In conducting the evaluation  
4       required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with  
5       the following:

6             (1) Military family support organizations.

7             (2) Members of the Armed Forces who have re-  
8       cently undergone permanent changes of station, both  
9       accompanied and unaccompanied by dependents.

10            (3) Members who have used relocation assist-  
11       ance services, with a focus on those who have moved  
12       to or from high-cost areas.

13            (4) Commanders of military installations.

14            (5) A selection of State and local officials that  
15       represent areas in the vicinity of military installa-  
16       tions.

17            (6) The Office of Local Defense Community  
18       Cooperation of the Department of Defense.

19            (7) Housing and urban development experts  
20       with expertise in accommodations in high-cost areas.

21            (8) Such other individuals or organizations as  
22       the Secretary considers appropriate.

23       (d) BEST PRACTICES GUIDE.—

24            (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
25       after the completion of the evaluation required by

1 subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense, in coordi-  
2 nation with the Secretaries of the military depart-  
3 ments, shall publish a best practices guide to be  
4 used by the leadership of military installations and  
5 by local communities to assist members of the  
6 Armed Forces with accessing relocation assistance  
7 programs.

8 (2) ELEMENTS.—The best practices guide re-  
9 quired by paragraph (1) shall address access to relo-  
10 cation assistance programs determined, pursuant to  
11 the evaluation conducted under subsection (a), to be  
12 successful in assisting members who make perma-  
13 nent changes of station to high-cost areas. Such pro-  
14 grams shall include programs offered both through  
15 the Department of Defense and through local com-  
16 munities.

17 (e) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year  
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
19 of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense com-  
20 mittees (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United  
21 States Code) a report that includes the following:

22 (1) Detailed findings from the evaluation con-  
23 ducted under subsection (a).

1           (2) The best practices guide required by sub-  
2           section (d), not later than 30 days before publication  
3           of the guide.

4           (3) Recommendations for legislative or policy  
5           changes to relocation assistance programs to better  
6           fulfill the objectives of section 1056 of title 10,  
7           United States Code.

8           (4) A roadmap, including projected timelines  
9           and resources required, for—

10           (A) implementation and integration of the  
11           best practices set forth in the guide; and

12           (B) addressing the needs of members of  
13           the Armed Forces making permanent changes  
14           of station to high-cost areas.

15           (f) REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICES GUIDE IMPLEMEN-  
16           TATION.—Not later than 3 years after the best practices  
17           guide required by subsection (d) is published, the Comp-  
18           troller General of the United States shall review the imple-  
19           mentation of the guide, relocation assistance programs,  
20           and other resources provided to members of the Armed  
21           Forces to assist such members with permanent changes  
22           of station, specifically focusing on high-cost areas.

23           (g) HIGH-COST AREA DEFINED.—

24           (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term  
25           “high-cost area” shall have the meaning determined

1 by the Secretary of Defense in regulations prescribed  
2 in accordance with paragraph (2).

3 (2) REGULATIONS.—In prescribing regulations  
4 defining the term “high-cost area” for purposes of  
5 this section, the Secretary shall—

6 (A) solicit and incorporate feedback  
7 from—

8 (i) appropriate officials of the General  
9 Services Administration who work on rel-  
10 evant matters; and

11 (ii) individuals and entities described  
12 in subsection (c); and

13 (B) consider relevant factors from across  
14 various Federal agencies that may indicate  
15 areas that are high cost, such as the non-stand-  
16 ard per diem rates of the General Services Ad-  
17 ministration.

