AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
166–7
OFFERED BY MR. BUDD OF NORTH CAROLINA

In part 1 of subtitle N of title I, add at the end the following:

SEC. 1908. MOBILE APPLICATION VOTING USING A BLOCKCHAIN NETWORK.

(a) MOBILE APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Election Commission shall, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission, the Attorney General, the Administrator of General Services, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, develop a mobile application that, using a blockchain network, allows registered voters, including absent uniformed services voters, to vote in State and Federal elections.

(2) CYBERSECURITY.—The Federal Election Commission shall use best practices to manage and mitigate cybersecurity related risks when developing such mobile application.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Election Commission shall establish a grant program that shall allow not more than 10 States to use the mobile application developed under subsection (a) as a means of receiving votes from registered voters, including absent uniformed services voters, in both State and Federal elections during fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State shall submit an application to the Federal Election Commission at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Federal Election Commission may reasonably require.

(3) REPORT.—The Federal Election Commission shall, not later than January 1, 2022, submit a report about the use of the mobile application developed under subsection (a) by States under this subsection.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICE VOTER.—The term “absent uniformed service voter” has the meaning given the term in section 107 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

(2) BLOCKCHAIN NETWORK.—The term “blockchain network” means any system of
networked computers that cooperates to reach consensus over the state of a computer program and allows users to participate in the consensus-making process without the need to license proprietary software or obtain permission from any other user. The term includes, specifically, a public network of computers that cooperates to reach consensus over the state of a distributed ledger describing transactions in a digital currency.

(3) MOBILE APPLICATION.—The term “mobile application” means a software program that runs on the operating system of a cellular telephone, tablet computer, or similar portable computing device that transmits data over a wireless connection.