AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-13

OFFERED BY MR. CAWTHERN OF NORTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle B of title XXXI, insert the following new section:

SEC. 311. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN FISSILE OR RADIOLOGICAL MATERIALS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) While United States-origin americium–241 (Am–241) sealed sources recovered by the National Nuclear Security Administration of the Department of Energy may be disposed of at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), Russian-origin Am–241 sources may not be.

(2) Section 2(19) of the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act of 1991 identifies WIPP as the location for the disposal of “radioactive waste materials generated by atomic energy defense activities”.

(3) The AM–241 sources of concern that may not currently be eligible for disposal at WIPP have
the same isotopic properties and are often colocated with sources that are eligible for disposal at WIPP.

(4) Russian-origin sealed sources, once confirmed to meet the WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria, should be eligible for disposal at WIPP.

(5) The Carlsbad Field Office of the Department estimates the volume to be disposed is equivalent to 1 to 2 shipments a year and will have a negligible impact on WIPP operations.

(6) The Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and the international community have identified Am–241 as a radioisotope that should be protected due to the possibility of its use in a radiological dispersal device.

(7) As part of its defense nuclear nonproliferation mission, the National Nuclear Security Administration recovers thousands of disused sealed sources from domestic and international facilities.

(8) Codifying a disposition pathway for these Am–241 sources will allow the National Nuclear Security Administration to accelerate their removal and reduce the availability of material that could be used in a dirty bomb.

(b) CLARIFICATION.—Section 3132(c)(1) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for
Fiscal Year 2005 (50 U.S.C. 2569(e)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(N)(i) The collection, storage, and safe disposal of the materials described in clause (ii) as waste materials generated by atomic energy defense activities for the purpose of disposal of such materials at WIPP (as defined in section 2(19) of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act (Public Law 102–579; 106 Stat. 4777).

“(ii) The materials described in this clause are proliferation-attractive fissile materials or radiological materials that—

“(I) contain transuranic elements of foreign-origin; and

“(II) but for subclause (I), are similar to proliferation-attractive fissile materials or radiological materials covered by this section.”.

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