

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1

OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER OF CALIFORNIA

After subtitle H of title III, insert the following (and redesignate the succeeding subtitle accordingly):

1 **Subtitle I—Study and Report on**
2 **Bots**

3 **SEC. 3801. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This subtitle may be cited as the “Bots Research
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 3802. TASK FORCE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance
9 Commission, in consultation with the Cybersecurity and
10 Infrastructure Security Agency, shall establish a task
11 force to carry out the study and report required under
12 section 3803.

13 (b) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The task force
14 shall be comprised of the following:

15 (1) At least 1 expert representing the Govern-
16 ment.

17 (2) At least 1 expert representing academia.

18 (3) At least 1 expert representing non-profit or-
19 ganizations.

1 (4) At least 1 expert representing the social
2 media industry.

3 (5) At least 1 election official.

4 (6) Any other expert that the Commission de-
5 termines appropriate.

6 (c) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The Commission shall select
7 task force members to serve by virtue of their expertise
8 in automation technology.

9 (d) **DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.**—Not later than
10 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
11 mission shall appoint the members of the task force.

12 (e) **COMPENSATION.**—Members of the task force shall
13 serve without pay and shall not receive travel expenses.

14 (f) **TASK FORCE SUPPORT.**—The Commission shall
15 ensure appropriate staff and officials of the Commission
16 are available to support any task force-related work.

17 **SEC. 3803. STUDY AND REPORT.**

18 (a) **STUDY.**—The task force established in this sub-
19 title shall conduct a study of the impact of automated ac-
20 counts on social media, public discourse, and elections.
21 Such study shall include an assessment of—

22 (1) what qualifies as a bot or automated ac-
23 count;

24 (2) the extent to which automated accounts are
25 used;

1 (3) how the automated accounts are used; and
2 (4) how to most effectively combat any use of
3 automated accounts that negatively effects social
4 media, public discourse, and elections while con-
5 tinuing to promote the protection of the First
6 Amendment on the internet.

7 (b) TASK FORCE CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out
8 the requirements of this section, the task force shall con-
9 sider, at a minimum—

- 10 (1) the promotion of technological innovation;
11 (2) the protection of First Amendment and
12 other constitutional rights of social media users;
13 (3) the need to improve cybersecurity to ensure
14 the integrity of elections; and
15 (4) the importance of continuously reviewing
16 relevant regulations to ensure that such regulations
17 respond effectively to changes in technology.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the estab-
19 lishment of the task force, the task force shall develop and
20 submit to Congress and relevant Federal agencies the re-
21 sults and conclusions of the study conducted under sub-
22 section (a).

