

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119–8
OFFERED BY MR. NEHLS OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 17____. SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT PILOT PROGRAM**
2 **FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFE-**
3 **TY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 448 of title 49, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“§ 44815. Small unmanned aircraft pilot program for**
8 **law enforcement and public safety**

9 “(a) PROHIBITION REGARDING WEAPONS.—The pro-
10 hibition regarding unmanned aircraft armed with dan-
11 gerous weapons under section 363 of the FAA Reauthor-
12 ization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 44802 note) is reaffirmed.

13 “(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 months
15 after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-
16 ministrator of the Federal Aviation Administration
17 shall establish a deescalation drone pilot program to
18 review the potential use of nonlethal deescalation un-

1 manned aircraft by Federal, State, local, or Tribal
2 law enforcement responding to an active shooter
3 event.

4 “(2) CONTENTS.—The pilot program required
5 under paragraph (1) shall—

6 “(A) address the process of reviewing and
7 validating nonlethal weapons that may be af-
8 fixed to an unmanned aircraft;

9 “(B) address training protocols for law en-
10 forcement and agents of the Administration for
11 the use of nonlethal deescalation unmanned air-
12 craft;

13 “(C) address operational and safety proto-
14 cols for operators of nonlethal deescalation un-
15 manned aircraft and agencies directly over-
16 seeing the operation of such unmanned aircraft;
17 and

18 “(D) assess the efficacy of nonlethal dees-
19 calation unmanned aircraft in indoor active
20 shooter events and the safety benefits associ-
21 ated with increasing the safe engagement dis-
22 tance between a law enforcement officer and an
23 active shooter.

24 “(3) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out the pilot
25 program under this subsection, the Administrator

1 shall use existing partnerships with the unmanned
2 aircraft system test ranges designated under section
3 44803, in collaboration with Federal, State, and
4 large metropolitan area law enforcement.

5 “(4) INTERAGENCY AVIATION AGREEMENTS.—
6 The Administrator may enter into interagency avia-
7 tion agreements, as necessary, with the Department
8 of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security,
9 and State large metropolitan and rural law enforce-
10 ment agencies to support the pilot program under
11 this subsection.

12 “(5) CONSULTATION.—The Administrator shall
13 solicit input from, and coordinate with, relevant
14 stakeholders as appropriate in carrying out the pilot
15 program established under this subsection.

16 “(6) REPORT.—Not later than 3 months after
17 the conclusion of the pilot program, the Adminis-
18 trator shall submit to the Committee on Transpor-
19 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Represent-
20 atives a report on the results of the pilot program
21 that includes a plan outlining a proposed process
22 through which a law enforcement applicant to such
23 program may seek permission from the Adminis-
24 trator to operate nonlethal deescalation unmanned
25 aircraft.

1 “(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 60 days after
2 submitting the report required under subsection (b)(6),
3 the Administrator shall initiate a rulemaking to create a
4 process through which the Administrator may provide ap-
5 proval—

6 “(1) for Federal, State, local, or Tribal law en-
7 forcement to operate nonlethal deescalation un-
8 manned aircraft during an active shooter event; and

9 “(2) for manufacturers of nonlethal deescala-
10 tion unmanned aircraft to operate such devices for
11 testing, validation, and law enforcement demonstra-
12 tions.

13 “(d) MANUFACTURING REQUIREMENT.—Any non-
14 lethal deescalation unmanned aircraft used under the pilot
15 program shall be manufactured in the United States, as
16 defined by the Federal Trade Commission under part 323
17 of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations.

18 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT.—The term ‘ac-
20 tive shooter event’ means an event in which—

21 “(A) an individual is actively engaged in
22 unlawfully killing or attempting to kill people
23 using explosives as defined under chapter 40 of
24 title 18, United States Code, or weapons sub-

1 ject to chapter 44 of title 18 or chapter 53 of
2 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

3 “(B) responding to the event poses a sig-
4 nificant risk to human life, including the lives
5 of law enforcement personnel and other individ-
6 uals; and

7 “(C) absent an immediate use of force, the
8 individual described in subparagraph (A) would
9 continue posing a threat to human life.

10 “(2) NONLETHAL DEESCALATION UNMANNED
11 AIRCRAFT.—The term ‘nonlethal deescalation un-
12 manned aircraft’ means an unmanned aircraft oper-
13 ated by law enforcement that—

14 “(A) is only equipped or armed with 1 or
15 more nonlethal weapons, including those that
16 may be subject to the definition provided in sec-
17 tion 930(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code;
18 and

19 “(B) may be equipped with other nonlethal
20 devices, including intense sound distraction
21 emitters, cameras, targeting sensors, speakers,
22 strobe lights and other similar collateral equip-
23 ment.

1 “(3) NONLETHAL WEAPON.—The term ‘non-
2 lethal weapon’ means a weapon, device, or munition
3 that—

4 “(A) is explicitly designed and primarily
5 employed to immediately incapacitate targeted
6 individuals or property in the target area while
7 minimizing—

8 “(i) fatalities;

9 “(ii) permanent injury to individuals;

10 and

11 “(iii) undesired damage to property;

12 and

13 “(B) is intended to have reversible effects
14 on individuals and property.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
16 ter 448 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by
17 adding at the end the following:

 “‘44815. Small unmanned aircraft pilot program for law enforcement and public
 safety.’”.

