

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-

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OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of title VIII, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFECTS OF UNMANNED**

2 **FREE BALLOONS ON AVIATION SAFETY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
5 Federal Aviation Administration, in coordination with the
6 heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a
7 report to the appropriate committees of Congress on the
8 effects unmanned free balloon operations, that do not emit
9 electronic or radio signals for identification purposes,
10 launched within the United States and its territories may
11 have on aviation safety.

12 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this section,
13 the Administrator shall consider—

14 (1) current technology available and employed
15 to track unmanned free balloon operations described
16 under subsection (a);

17 (2) how the flights of such operations have af-
18 fected, or could affect, aviation safety;

1 (3) how such operations have contributed, or
2 could contribute, to misidentified threats to civil or
3 military aviation operations or infrastructure; and

4 (4) how such operations have impacted, or
5 could impact, national security and air traffic con-
6 trol operations.

7 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report specified under
8 subsection (a) shall contain recommendations on the fol-
9 lowing:

10 (1) The need for unmanned free balloons
11 launched within the United States and its territories
12 to be equipped with technology that may increase
13 the near real-time trackability of such balloons to
14 deconflict airspace and maintain aviation safety of
15 the national airspace system in support of Adminis-
16 tration and Department of Defense aviation oper-
17 ations.

18 (2) The feasibility and efficacy in requiring the
19 equipage and usage of such technology.

20 (d) APPROPRIATE.—In this section, the term “appro-
21 priate congressional committees” means—

22 (1) the Committee on Armed Services of the
23 House of Representatives;

24 (2) the Committee on Transportation and In-
25 frastructure of the House of Representatives;

1 (3) the Committee on Armed Services of the
2 Senate; and

3 (4) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
4 Transportation of the Senate.

