AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-57

OFFERED BY MS. WEXTON OF VIRGINIA

Page 503, after line 22, insert the following:

SEC. 724. STUDY OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall conduct a study on substance use disorders among the relevant population before and during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The study shall include the following:

(1) Analysis of data about the relevant population who overdosed from opioids or other illicit substances during the public health emergency, using appropriate control samples and comparing to existing population data.

(2) Analysis of fatal opioid and other illicit substances overdose deaths among the relevant population during the public health emergency, using appropriate control samples and comparing to existing population data.
(3) Analysis of the prevalence of alcohol use disorder among the relevant population during the public health emergency, using existing data to identify any new trends.

(4) Analysis of the association between overdose deaths and suicide among the relevant population.

(5) An overview of the resources from relevant Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health, that were distributed to the relevant population during the public health emergency, including methods of dissemination.

(6) An analysis of the utilization of recovery services and barriers to access the services at the Veterans Health Administration and the Military Health System by different modes of delivery, such as telehealth, inpatient, outpatient, intensive outpatient, and residential services, during the public health emergency.

(7) Identification of key areas in which relevant Federal agencies can improve their pandemic response as it relates to substance use disorders and
overdoses among the relevant population, including steps that can be taken to improve the preparedness of the agencies for future public health emergencies declared by the Secretary under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act.

(b) Reports.—

(1) Interim report.—Within 120 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency ends, the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate committees an interim report that contains an update on the status of the study required by subsection (a).

(2) Final report.—Not later than 2 years after the COVID-19 public health emergency ends, the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate committees a final report that contains the results of the study.

(c) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Appropriate committees.—The term “appropriate committees” means the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.

(2) COVID-19 public health emergency.—The term “COVID-19 public health emergency”
means the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on January 27, 2020, with respect to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

(3) RELEVANT POPULATION.—The term “relevant population” means members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.