

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 1947**

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Page 263, line 3, strike “; and” and insert a semi-colon.

Page 263, after line 3, insert after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

1 (4) in subsection (h)(2), by inserting “, includ-
2 ing, to the extent practicable, practices that maxi-
3 mize benefits for honey bees” after “pollinators”;
4 and

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

5 **SEC. 12 ____ . PROTECTION OF HONEY BEES AND OTHER**
6 **POLLINATORS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
8 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator
9 of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall carry out
10 such activities as the Secretary determines to be appro-
11 priate to protect and ensure the long-term viability of pop-
12 ulations of honey bees, wild bees, and other beneficial in-

1 sects of agricultural crops, horticultural plants, wild
2 plants, and other plants, including—

3 (1) providing technical expertise relating to pro-
4 posed agency actions that may threaten pollinator
5 health or jeopardize the long-term viability of popu-
6 lations of pollinators;

7 (2) providing formal guidance on national poli-
8 cies relating to—

9 (A) permitting managed honey bees to for-
10 age on National Forest Service lands where
11 compatible with other natural resource manage-
12 ment priorities; and

13 (B) planting and maintaining managed
14 honey bee and native pollinator forage on Na-
15 tional Forest Service lands where compatible
16 with other natural resource management prior-
17 ities;

18 (3) making use of the best available peer-re-
19 viewed science regarding environmental and chemical
20 stressors on pollinator health; and

21 (4) regularly monitoring and reporting on the
22 health and population status of managed and native
23 pollinators including bees, birds, bats, and other spe-
24 cies.

1 (b) TASK FORCE ON BEE HEALTH AND COMMERCIAL
2 BEEKEEPING.—

3 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
4 tablish a task force—

5 (A) to coordinate Federal efforts carried
6 out on or after the date of enactment of this
7 Act to address the serious worldwide decline in
8 bee health, especially honey bees and declining
9 native bees; and

10 (B) to assess Federal efforts to mitigate
11 pollinator losses and threats to the United
12 States commercial beekeeping industry.

13 (2) AGENCY CONSULTATION.—The task force
14 established under this subsection shall seek ongoing
15 consultation from any Federal agency carrying out
16 activities important to bee health and commercial
17 beekeeping, including officials from—

18 (A) the Department of Agriculture;

19 (B) the Department of the Interior;

20 (C) the Environmental Protection Agency;

21 (D) the Food and Drug Administration;

22 (E) the Department of Commerce; and

23 (F) U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

24 (3) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—The task
25 force established under this subsection shall consult

1 with beekeeper, conservation, scientist, and agricul-
2 tural stakeholders.

3 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the task force es-
5 tablished under subsection (b) shall submit to Congress
6 a report that—

7 (1) summarizes Federal activities carried out
8 pursuant to section 1672(h) of the Food, Agri-
9 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
10 U.S.C. 5925(h)) or any other provision of law (in-
11 cluding regulations) to address bee decline;

12 (2) summarizes international efforts to address
13 the decline of managed honey bees and native polli-
14 nators; and

15 (3) provides recommendations to Congress re-
16 garding how to better coordinate Federal agency ef-
17 forts to address the decline of managed honey bees
18 and native pollinators.

19 (d) POLLINATOR RESEARCH LAB FEASIBILITY
20 STUDY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
22 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Re-
23 search Service, may conduct feasibility studies re-
24 garding—

1 (A) re-locating existing honey bee and na-
2 tive pollinator research from Federal labora-
3 tories to a cooperator-run facility in a location
4 most geographically appropriate for pollinator
5 research; and

6 (B) modernizing existing honey bee re-
7 search laboratories identified by the Agricul-
8 tural Research Service in the capital investment
9 strategy document dated 2012.

10 (2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the feasi-
11 bility studies under paragraph (1), the Secretary
12 shall consult with—

13 (A) beekeeper, native bee, agricultural, re-
14 search institution, and bee conservation stake-
15 holders regarding new research laboratory
16 needs under paragraph (1)(A); and

17 (B) commercial beekeepers regarding mod-
18 ernizing existing honey bee laboratories under
19 paragraph (1)(B).

