AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-70

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title V, insert the following new section:

SEC. 560. TRANSITION OUTREACH PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Labor, Education, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall establish a pilot program through the Transition to Veterans Program Office that fosters contact between veterans and the Department of Defense.

(b) Contact.—The Secretary of Defense, and with respect to members of the Coast Guard, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, shall direct the Military Transition Assistance Teams of the Department of Defense to contact each veteran from the Armed Forces at least twice during each of the first three months after the veteran separates from the Armed Forces to—
(1) inquire about the transition of the separated member to civilian life, including—

(A) employment;

(B) veterans benefits;

(C) education;

(D) family life; and

(2) hear concerns of the veteran regarding transition.

(e) TERMINATION.—The Secretary shall complete operation of the pilot program under this section not later than September 30, 2019.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after termination of the pilot program under this section, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to Congress regarding such pilot program, including the following, disaggregated by armed force:

(1) The number of veterans contacted, including how many times such veterans were contacted.

(2) Information regarding the age, sex, and geographic region of contacted veterans.

(3) Concerns most frequently raised by the veterans.

(4) What benefits the contacted veterans have received, and an estimate of the cost to the Federal Government for such benefits.
(5) How many contacted veterans are employed or have sought employment, including what fields of employment.

(6) How many contacted veterans are enrolled or have sought to enroll in a course of education, including what fields of study.

(7) Recommendations for legislation to improve the long-term effectiveness of TAP and the well-being of veterans.

e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “armed force” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The term “TAP” means the Transition Assistance Program under sections 1142 and 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.