AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–70
OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle I of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. PUBLICATION OF GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION ON HOUSING MARKETS NEAR CERTAIN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and make publicly available guidance and information about the housing market around military installations in the continental United States. Such guidance and information shall be designed to assist members of the Armed Forces in better using their basic allowance for housing.

(b) MATTERS FOR INCLUSION.—The information and guidance under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) information on the housing market around the installation, including—

(A) information about deciding whether to rent or buy, including taking into consideration the average deployment cycle for that military
installation and permanent change of station timelines;

(B) information about houses and apartments;

(C) considerations of living with a roommate; and

(D) information about working with and through a landlord;

(2) suggested bedroom and bathroom and square footage for each basic allowance for housing category;

(3) recommended zip codes in which to look for properties;

(4) information about the availability of public transportation;

(5) average commute times to military installation and wait times at nearest gate; and

(6) a list of realtors and real estate brokers who work in the area, including any complaints registered against such realtors and brokers.

(c) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on a review of the Comptroller General of the rate setting procedure for basic allowance for housing. Such review shall cover how the Department of Defense collects basic allow-
ance for housing data and shall include an analysis of each of the following:

(1) Whether the process in use is the most efficient process.

(2) Whether the information collected is publicly available elsewhere.

(3) Whether the data collected reflects what is available through open source methods.

(4) How basic allowance for housing rates and cost of living adjustments are interrelated.

(5) Whether members of the Armed Forces about whom data is collected are receiving loan protections on interest rates pursuant to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

(6) Whether such members of the Armed Forces experience issues when they need to break leases for a deployment or permanent change of station.