

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

33

OFFERED BY MR. HILL OF ARKANSAS

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 17___ . NEW MADRID SEISMIC ZONE PREPAREDNESS**
2 **AND RESPONSE.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) The New Madrid Seismic Zone (hereinafter
6 in this section referred to as the “NMSZ”) poses a
7 significant and credible threat of a catastrophic
8 earthquake in the central United States.

9 (2) A major seismic event in the NMSZ would
10 impact multiple states, causing widespread and se-
11 vere damage to critical infrastructure, including
12 transportation, energy, and communication net-
13 works.

14 (3) The potential for immense loss of life and
15 large-scale economic disruption following such an
16 event constitutes a direct threat to national security
17 and economic stability.

1 (4) A comprehensive and coordinated response
2 involving Federal, State, and National Guard assets
3 is essential for life-saving and life-sustaining oper-
4 ations in the aftermath of an NMSZ event.

5 (5) A recurring and detailed assessment of na-
6 tional preparedness is crucial to identify and miti-
7 gate capability gaps and ensure a ready and resilient
8 response.

9 (b) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180
10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
11 retary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of
12 Homeland Security (acting through the Administrator of
13 the Federal Emergency Management Agency), the Chief
14 of the National Guard Bureau, and the Commanding Gen-
15 eral of United States Northern Command, shall conduct
16 a comprehensive assessment of national preparedness to
17 respond to a major seismic event occurring in the New
18 Madrid Seismic Zone. Such assessment shall include each
19 of the following:

20 (1) An evaluation of Federal, State, and Na-
21 tional Guard response capabilities and limitations
22 for a major NMSZ earthquake event.

23 (2) An identification of shortfalls in personnel,
24 equipment, logistics, communications, and transpor-

1 tation support required for life-saving and sustaining
2 operations.

3 (3) An assessment of interagency coordination
4 and resource-sharing mechanisms between the De-
5 partment of Defense, the Federal Emergency Man-
6 agement Agency, and affected States.

7 (4) Recommendations for corrective actions, re-
8 source investments, or structural improvements to
9 enhance national readiness.

10 (c) UPDATES.—Not less frequently than once every
11 five years, the Secretary of Defense shall update the as-
12 sessment required under subsection (b).

13 (d) COORDINATION.—In conducting the assessment
14 required under subsection (b), and the updates required
15 under subsection (c), the Secretary of Defense shall con-
16 sult with the governors, adjutants general, and emergency
17 management agencies in of affected States to ensure the
18 inclusion of local and regional response perspectives.

19 (e) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
21 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the
22 Senate and House of Representatives a report on the re-
23 sults of the assessment, including findings, identified
24 shortfalls, and recommendations for legislative or budg-
25 etary action.

1 (f) DEFINITION OF NEW MADRID SEISMIC ZONE.—
2 In this section, the term “New Madrid Seismic Zone”
3 means the geographic area and States at most risk from
4 an earthquake originating within the New Madrid and
5 Wabash Valley seismic zones.

