AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–19

OFFERED BY MRS. LEE OF NEVADA

Page 353, line 19, strike “LEADERSHIP OF”.

Page 353, line 23, insert “(a) LEADERSHIP.—” before “Subsection”.

Page 356, after line 15, add the following:

(b) AUTHORITY.—Paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The Office shall carry out decision making authority delegated to the office by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to the definition, coordination, and management of functional, technical, and programmatic activities that are jointly used, carried out, and shared by the Departments.”.

(c) PURPOSES.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of such section is by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(C) To develop and implement a comprehensive interoperability strategy, including pursuant to the National Defense Authorization
Act for Fiscal Year 2020 or other provision of law requiring such strategy.

“(D) To pursue the highest level of interoperability (as defined in section 713 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020) for the delivery of health care by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(E) To accelerate the exchange of health care information between the Departments in order to support the delivery of health care by both Departments.

“(F) To collect the operational and strategic requirements of the Departments relating to the strategy under subsection (a) and communicate such requirements and activities to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of implementing title IV of the 21st Century Cures Act (division A of Public Law 114–255), and the amendments made by that title, and other objectives of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.
“(G) To plan for and effectuate the broadest possible implementation of standards, specifically with respect to the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources standard or successor standard, the evolution of such standards, and the obsolescence of such standards.

“(H) To actively engage with national and international health standards setting organizations, including by taking membership in such organizations, to ensure that standards established by such organizations meet the needs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to the strategy under subsection (a), and oversee and approve adoption of and mapping to such standards by the Departments.

“(I) To express the content and format of health data of the Departments using a common language to improve the exchange of data between the Departments and with the private sector, and to ensure that clinicians of both Departments have access to integrated, computable, comprehensive health records of patients.

“(J) To inform each Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense and the
Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs of any activities of the Office affecting or relevant to cybersecurity.”.

(d) Resources and Staffing.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including the assignment of clinical or technical personnel of the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Office”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) Cost Sharing.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting through the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee, shall enter into an agreement on cost sharing and providing resources for the operations and staffing of the Office.

“(4) Hiring Authority.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall delegate to the Director the authority under title 5, United States Code, regarding appointments in the competitive service to hire personnel of the Office.”.
(e) BUDGET MATTERS.—Such section is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) BUDGET AND CONTRACTING MATTERS.—

“(1) BUDGET.—The Director may obligate and expend funds allocated to the operations of the Office.

“(2) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Director may enter into contracts to carry out this section.”.

(f) REPORTS.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(h) REPORTS.—

“(1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than September 30, 2020, and each year thereafter through 2024, the Director shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to the appropriate committees of Congress, a report on the activities of the Office during the preceding calendar year. Each report shall include the following:

“(A) A detailed description of the activities of the Office during the year covered by such report, including a detailed description of the amounts expended and the purposes for which expended.
“(B) With respect to the objectives of the strategy under paragraph (2)(C) of subsection (b), and the purposes of the Office under such subsection—

“(i) a discussion, description, and assessment of the progress made by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs during the preceding calendar year; and

“(ii) a discussion and description of the goals of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs for the following calendar year.

“(2) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—On a quarterly basis, the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed financial summary of the activities of the Office, including the funds allocated to the Office by each Department, the expenditures made, and an assessment as to whether the current funding is sufficient to carry out the activities of the Office.

“(3) AVAILABILITY.—Each report under this subsection shall be made publicly available.”.
(g) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 713 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is repealed.