

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:

1 (b) **AUTHORITY.—**Paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of
2 such section is amended by adding at the end the following
3 new sentence: “The Office shall carry out decision making
4 authority delegated to the office by the Secretary of De-
5 fense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect
6 to the definition, coordination, and management of func-
7 tional, technical, and programmatic activities that are
8 jointly used, carried out, and shared by the Depart-
9 ments.”.

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

13 “(C) To develop and implement a com-
14 prehensive interoperability strategy, including
15 pursuant to the National Defense Authorization

1 Act for Fiscal Year 2020 or other provision of
2 law requiring such strategy.

3 “(D) To pursue the highest level of inter-
4 operability (as defined in section 713 of the Na-
5 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
6 Year 2020) for the delivery of health care by
7 the Department of Defense and the Department
8 of Veterans Affairs.

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

13 “(F) To collect the operational and stra-
14 tegic requirements of the Departments relating
15 to the strategy under subsection (a) and com-
16 municate such requirements and activities to
17 the Office of the National Coordinator for
18 Health Information Technology of the Depart-
19 ment of Health and Human Services for the
20 purpose of implementing title IV of the 21st
21 Century Cures Act (division A of Public Law
22 114–255), and the amendments made by that
23 title, and other objectives of the Office of the
24 National Coordinator for Health Information
25 Technology.

1 “(G) To plan for and effectuate the broad-
2 est possible implementation of standards, spe-
3 cifically with respect to the Fast Healthcare
4 Interoperability Resources standard or suc-
5 cessor standard, the evolution of such stand-
6 ards, and the obsolescence of such standards.

7 “(H) To actively engage with national and
8 international health standards setting organiza-
9 tions, including by taking membership in such
10 organizations, to ensure that standards estab-
11 lished by such organizations meet the needs of
12 the Department of Defense and the Department
13 of Veterans Affairs pursuant to the strategy
14 under subsection (a), and oversee and approve
15 adoption of and mapping to such standards by
16 the Departments.

17 “(I) To express the content and format of
18 health data of the Departments using a com-
19 mon language to improve the exchange of data
20 between the Departments and with the private
21 sector, and to ensure that clinicians of both De-
22 partments have access to integrated, comput-
23 able, comprehensive health records of patients.

24 “(J) To inform each Chief Information Of-
25 ficer of the Department of Defense and the

1 Chief Information Officer of the Department of
2 Veterans Affairs of any activities of the Office
3 affecting or relevant to cybersecurity.”.

4 (d) RESOURCES AND STAFFING.—Subsection (g) of
5 such section is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the pe-
7 riod at the end the following: “, including the as-
8 signment of clinical or technical personnel of the De-
9 partment of Defense or the Department of Veterans
10 Affairs to the Office”; and

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

13 “(3) COST SHARING.—The Secretary of De-
14 fense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting
15 through the Department of Veterans Affairs-Depart-
16 ment of Defense Joint Executive Committee, shall
17 enter into an agreement on cost sharing and pro-
18 viding resources for the operations and staffing of
19 the Office.

20 “(4) HIRING AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of
21 Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
22 delegate to the Director the authority under title 5,
23 United States Code, regarding appointments in the
24 competitive service to hire personnel of the Office.”.

1 (e) BUDGET MATTERS.—Such section is amended by
2 adding at the end the following new subsection:

3 “(k) BUDGET AND CONTRACTING MATTERS.—

4 “(1) BUDGET.—The Director may obligate and
5 expend funds allocated to the operations of the Of-
6 fice.

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

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

11 “(h) REPORTS.—

12 “(1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than Sep-
13 tember 30, 2020, and each year thereafter through
14 2024, the Director shall submit to the Secretary of
15 Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and
16 to the appropriate committees of Congress, a report
17 on the activities of the Office during the preceding
18 calendar year. Each report shall include the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(A) A detailed description of the activities
21 of the Office during the year covered by such
22 report, including a detailed description of the
23 amounts expended and the purposes for which
24 expended.

1 “(B) With respect to the objectives of the
2 strategy under paragraph (2)(C) of subsection
3 (b), and the purposes of the Office under such
4 subsection—

5 “(i) a discussion, description, and as-
6 sessment of the progress made by the De-
7 partment of Defense and the Department
8 of Veterans Affairs during the preceding
9 calendar year; and

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

14 “(2) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—On a quarterly
15 basis, the Director shall submit to the appropriate
16 committees of Congress a detailed financial sum-
17 mary of the activities of the Office, including the
18 funds allocated to the Office by each Department,
19 the expenditures made, and an assessment as to
20 whether the current funding is sufficient to carry
21 out the activities of the Office.

22 “(3) AVAILABILITY.—Each report under this
23 subsection shall be made publicly available.”.

1 (g) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 713 of the Na-
2 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014
3 (Public Law 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is repealed.

