AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-31
OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN OF RHODE ISLAND

Page 641, after line 22, insert the following:

Subtitle G—Retain Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence (RIME)

SEC. 10671. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) CENTER.—The term “Center” has the meaning given the term in section 25(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(a)).

(2) ELIGIBLE MANUFACTURERS.—The term “eligible manufacturer” means a manufacturer that—

(A) is a small business concern, as that term is defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and

(B) has an existing relationship with a Center.

SEC. 10672. PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a pilot program to award National Institute of
Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) grants to help ensure an adequately trained manufacturing workforce. Under the program, eligible Centers may award MEP grants to eligible manufacturers to retain retiring employees for up to 90 days for the purpose of transferring job-specific skills and training to existing or new employees. The length of each grant shall be determined through negotiations between the Center and the eligible manufacturer.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to receive funding and award grants under the program, a Center must meet the following criteria:

(1) A Center must be able to document evidence of an aging workforce within manufacturing firms that are seeking assistance with retaining skills and knowledge of their operations.

(2) A Center shall establish a transparent application process for eligible manufacturing firms that may include one or more of the following preferences:

(A) A preference for manufacturers that employ veterans discharged or released under honorable conditions.
(B) A preference for manufacturing firms from industry sectors that are most in need of assistance as determined by the local MEP.

(C) A preference for manufacturing firms with a facility in the State or region for an extended period of time before the application is submitted (as determined by the Center).

(D) A preference for manufacturing firms that have an existing relationship with the local MEP.

(3) A Center must be able to demonstrate their ability to assess, advise, and train manufacturers on how to transfer the job-specific skills and training through the implementation of a training structure and train-the-trainer program focused on knowledge capture and transfer.

(c) TRAINING.—In awarding grants pursuant to this section, consideration shall be given to the use of funds by Centers to assist manufacturers that are experiencing high employee turnover due to their inability to transfer required job-specific skills and training to new employees with the implementation of training structures and train-the-trainer programs.

(d) COST SHARING.—To be eligible for a grant under the pilot program under this section, a Center shall dem-
onstrate that 50 percent of the amount of the funds
awarded are matched from non-Federal sources. Those
sources may include State and local agencies engaged in
workforce development, foundations engaged in workforce
development, or an in-kind contribution from an employer
that would stand to directly benefit from the grant re-
ceived by the Center.

(e) NUMBER AND SIZE OF AWARDS.—

(1) NUMBER.—The Secretary may award up to
25 grants to Centers under the pilot program.

(2) SIZE.—Each award under the program
shall be for not less than $50,000 and not more
than $500,000.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A Center receiving
a grant under the pilot program may use up to 5 percent
of the amount of the grant for the administration of ex-
penses incurred by the Center in distributing grants to
eligible manufacturers under the pilot program.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
authorized to be appropriated to the National Institute of
Standards and Technology $10,000,000 to carry out the
pilot program.