

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-

31

OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN OF RHODE ISLAND

Page 641, after line 22, insert the following:

1 **Subtitle G—Retain Innovation and**
2 **Manufacturing Excellence (RIME)**

3 **SEC. 10671. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this subtitle:

5 (1) CENTER.—The term “Center” has the
6 meaning given the term in section 25(a) of the Na-
7 tional Institute of Standards and Technology Act
8 (15 U.S.C. 278k(a)).

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

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

15 (B) has an existing relationship with a
16 Center.

17 **SEC. 10672. PILOT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall
19 establish a pilot program to award National Institute of

1 Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension
2 Partnership (MEP) grants to help ensure an adequately
3 trained manufacturing workforce. Under the program, eli-
4 gible Centers may award MEP grants to eligible manufac-
5 turers to retain retiring employees for up to 90 days for
6 the purpose of transferring job-specific skills and training
7 to existing or new employees. The length of each grant
8 shall be determined through negotiations between the Cen-
9 ter and the eligible manufacturer.

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

13 (1) A Center must be able to document evi-
14 dence of an aging workforce within manufacturing
15 firms that are seeking assistance with retaining
16 skills and knowledge of their operations.

17 (2) A Center shall establish a transparent appli-
18 cation process for eligible manufacturing firms that
19 may include one or more of the following pref-
20 erences:

21 (A) A preference for manufacturers that
22 employ veterans discharged or released under
23 honorable conditions.

1 (B) A preference for manufacturing firms
2 from industry sectors that are most in need of
3 assistance as determined by the local MEP.

4 (C) A preference for manufacturing firms
5 with a facility in the State or region for an ex-
6 tended period of time before the application is
7 submitted (as determined by the Center).

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

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

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

24 (d) COST SHARING.—To be eligible for a grant under
25 the pilot program under this section, a Center shall dem-

1 onstrate that 50 percent of the amount of the funds
2 awarded are matched from non-Federal sources. Those
3 sources may include State and local agencies engaged in
4 workforce development, foundations engaged in workforce
5 development, or an in-kind contribution from an employer
6 that would stand to directly benefit from the grant re-
7 ceived by the Center.

8 (e) NUMBER AND SIZE OF AWARDS.—

9 (1) NUMBER.—The Secretary may award up to
10 25 grants to Centers under the pilot program.

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

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

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

