AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–25
OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE OF MICHIGAN

Page 240, before line 1, insert the following:

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45512. Use of unmanned aircraft systems at institutions of higher education.
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Page 272, line 23, strike the closing quotation marks and the final period.

Page 272, after line 23, insert the following:

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§ 45512. Use of unmanned aircraft systems at institutions of higher education

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish procedures and standards, as applicable, to further facilitate the safe operation of unmanned aircraft systems by institutions of higher education, including faculty, students, and staff.

(b) STANDARDS.—The procedures and standards required under subsection (a) shall grant institutions of higher education (including faculty, students, and staff) additional ability, beyond that permitted by law on the day before such date of enactment, to operate unmanned air-
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craft systems by outlining risk-based operational parameters to—

“(1) ensure the safety of the national airspace system and the uninvolved public; and

“(2) facilitate the use of unmanned aircraft systems for educational or research purposes.

“(c) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM APPROVAL.—
The procedures required under subsection (a) shall allow unmanned aircraft systems operated under this section to be modified for research purposes without iterative approval by the Administrator.

“(d) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES.—The Administrator shall establish a procedure to provide for streamlined, risk-based operational approval of unmanned aircraft systems operated by institutions of higher education (including faculty, students, and staff) outside of the parameters or purposes set forth in subsection (b).

“(e) DEADLINES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If, by the date that is 270 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator has not set forth standards and procedures required under subsections (a), (b), and (c), an institution of higher education may—

“(A) continue to operate small unmanned aircraft at model aircraft fields approved by the
Academy of Model Aeronautics, with the permission of the local club of the Academy of Model Aeronautics;

“(B) continue to operate small unmanned aircraft as permitted under part 107 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this section (or any subsequent regulation that is equally or more permissive); and

“(C) operate small unmanned aircraft for educational or research purposes in a manner beyond that permitted by law on the day before such date of enactment at 1 or more outdoor flight fields designated by the institution, if the institution first submits to the Federal Aviation Administration applications for approval of—

“(i) the institution’s designated outdoor flight fields; and

“(ii) the institution’s standards of operation at that field.

“(2) CONSEQUENCE OF FAILURE TO APPROVE.—If the Administrator does not take action with respect to an application submitted under paragraph (1)(C) within 30 days of the submission of the
application, the failure to do so shall be treated as approval of the application.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

“(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.— The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given that term by section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

“(2) EDUCATIONAL OR RESEARCH PURPOSES.— The term ‘educational or research purposes’, with respect to the operation of an unmanned aircraft system by an institution of higher education, includes—

“(A) instruction of students at the institution;

“(B) academic or research related use of unmanned aircraft systems by student organizations recognized by the institution, if such use has been approved by the institution;

“(C) activities undertaken by the institution as part of research projects, including research projects sponsored by the Federal Government; and
“(D) other academic activities at the institution, including general research, engineering, and robotics.”