

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

Page 240, before line 1, insert the following:

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

Page 272, line 23, strike the closing quotation marks and the final period.

Page 272, after line 23, insert the following:

1 **“§ 45512. Use of unmanned aircraft systems at institu-**  
2 **tions of higher education**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after  
4 the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator  
5 shall establish procedures and standards, as applicable, to  
6 further facilitate the safe operation of unmanned aircraft  
7 systems by institutions of higher education, including fac-  
8 ulty, students, and staff.

9 “(b) STANDARDS.—The procedures and standards  
10 required under subsection (a) shall grant institutions of  
11 higher education (including faculty, students, and staff)  
12 additional ability, beyond that permitted by law on the day  
13 before such date of enactment, to operate unmanned air-

1 craft systems by outlining risk-based operational param-  
2 eters to—

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

5 “(2) facilitate the use of unmanned aircraft sys-  
6 tems for educational or research purposes.

7 “(c) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM APPROVAL.—  
8 The procedures required under subsection (a) shall allow  
9 unmanned aircraft systems operated under this section to  
10 be modified for research purposes without iterative ap-  
11 proval by the Administrator.

12 “(d) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES.—The Administrator  
13 shall establish a procedure to provide for streamlined, risk-  
14 based operational approval of unmanned aircraft systems  
15 operated by institutions of higher education (including fac-  
16 ulty, students, and staff) outside of the parameters or pur-  
17 poses set forth in subsection (b).

18 “(e) DEADLINES.—

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

24 “(A) continue to operate small unmanned  
25 aircraft at model aircraft fields approved by the

1 Academy of Model Aeronautics, with the per-  
2 mission of the local club of the Academy of  
3 Model Aeronautics;

4 “(B) continue to operate small unmanned  
5 aircraft as permitted under part 107 of title 14,  
6 Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the  
7 date of enactment of this section (or any subse-  
8 quent regulation that is equally or more permis-  
9 sive); and

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

17 “(i) the institutions’s designated out-  
18 door flight fields; and

19 “(ii) the institution’s standards of op-  
20 eration at that field.

21 “(2) CONSEQUENCE OF FAILURE TO AP-  
22 PROVE.—If the Administrator does not take action  
23 with respect to an application submitted under para-  
24 graph (1)(C) within 30 days of the submission of the

1 application, the failure to do so shall be treated as  
2 approval of the application.

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

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

9 “(2) EDUCATIONAL OR RESEARCH PURPOSES.—  
10 The term ‘educational or research purposes’, with  
11 respect to the operation of an unmanned aircraft  
12 system by an institution of higher education, in-  
13 cludes—

14 “(A) instruction of students at the institu-  
15 tion;

16 “(B) academic or research related use of  
17 unmanned aircraft systems by student organi-  
18 zations recognized by the institution, if such  
19 use has been approved by the institution;

20 “(C) activities undertaken by the institu-  
21 tion as part of research projects, including re-  
22 search projects sponsored by the Federal Gov-  
23 ernment; and

1                   “(D) other academic activities at the insti-  
2                   tution, including general research, engineering,  
3                   and robotics.”.

