AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–19
OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 567. ASSESSMENT AND STUDY OF TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) One-year Independent Assessment of the Effectiveness of TAP.—

(1) Independent Assessment.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the covered officials, shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate entity with experience in adult education to carry out a 1-year independent assessment of TAP, including—

(A) the effectiveness of TAP for members of each military department during the entire military life cycle;

(B) the appropriateness of the TAP career readiness standards;

(©) a review of information that is provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs under TAP, including mental health data;
whether TAP effectively addresses the challenges veterans face entering the civilian workforce and in translating experience and skills from military service to the job market;

(E) whether TAP effectively addresses the challenges faced by the families of veterans making the transition to civilian life;

(F) appropriate metrics regarding TAP outcomes for members of the Armed Forces one year after separation, retirement, or discharge from the Armed Forces;

(G) what the Secretary, in consultation with the covered officials and veterans service organizations determine to be successful outcomes for TAP;

(H) whether members of the Armed Forces achieve successful outcomes for TAP, as determined under subparagraph (G);

(I) how the Secretary and the covered officials provide feedback to each other regarding such outcomes;

(J) recommendations for the Secretaries of the military departments regarding how to improve outcomes for members of the Armed
Forces after separation, retirement, and discharge; and

(K) other topics the Secretary and the covered officials determine would aid members of the Armed Forces as they transition to civilian life.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the independent assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary and the covered officials, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives—

(A) the findings and recommendations (including recommended legislation) of the independent assessment prepared by the entity described in paragraph (1); and

(B) responses of the Secretary and the covered officials to the findings and recommendations described in subparagraph (G).

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) The term “covered officials” is comprised of—

(I) the Secretary of Defense;

(ii) the Secretary of Labor;
(iii) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; and

(iv) the Secretaries of the military departments.

(B) The term “military department” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON CHANGES TO TAP.—

(1) STUDY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense and Labor and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall conduct a five-year longitudinal study regarding TAP on three separate cohorts of members of the Armed Forces who have separated from the Armed Forces, including—

(A) a cohort that has attended TAP counseling as implemented on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) a cohort that attends TAP counseling after the Secretaries of Defense and Labor implement changes recommended in the report under subsection a(2); and
©) a cohort that has not attended TAP
counseling.

(2) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 90
days after the day that is one year after the date of
the initiation of the study under paragraph (1) and
annually thereafter for the three subsequent years,
the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and
Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business
Administration, shall submit to the Committees on
Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives and the Committees on Armed Services
of the Senate and House of Representatives a
progress report of activities under the study during
the immediately preceding year.

(3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
after the completion of the study under paragraph
(1), the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense,
and Labor, and the Administrator of the Small
Business Administration, shall submit to the Com-
mittees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and
House of Representatives and the Committees on
Armed Services of the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives a report of final findings and rec-
ommendations based on the study.
(4) ELEMENTS.—The final report under paragraph (3) shall include information regarding the following:

(A) The percentage of each cohort that received unemployment benefits during the study.

(B) The numbers of months members of each cohort were employed during the study.

(C) Annual starting and ending salaries of members of each cohort who were employed during the study.

(D) How many members of each cohort enrolled in an institution of higher learning, as that term is defined in section 3452(f) of title 38, United States Code.

(E) The academic credit hours, degrees, and certificates obtained by members of each cohort during the study.

(F) The annual income of members of each cohort.

(G) The total household income of members of each cohort.

(H) How many members of each cohort own their principal residences.

(I) How many dependents that members of each cohort have.
(J) The percentage of each cohort that achieves a successful outcome for TAP, as determined under subsection (1)(G).

(K) Other criteria the Secretaries and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration determine appropriate.