

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

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OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle E of title XVII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 1762. INFORMATION LITERACY COMMISSION.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION LITERACY
3 COMMISSION.—

4 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

5 (A) the term “Co-Chairs” means the Co-
6 Chairs of the Commission;

7 (B) the term “Commission” means the In-
8 formation Literacy Commission established
9 under this section; and

10 (C) the term “information literacy” means
11 the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, under-
12 stand, evaluate, analyze, and effectively use in-
13 formation (which encompasses spoken and
14 broadcast words and videos, printed materials,
15 and digital content, data, and images).

16 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a
17 commission to be known as the “Information Lit-
18 eracy Commission”.

1 (3) PURPOSE.—The Commission shall serve to
2 improve the information literacy of servicemembers
3 and their families and other persons in the United
4 States through the development of national strate-
5 gies and best practices to promote information lit-
6 eracy.

7 (b) COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION.—

8 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be
9 composed of the following:

10 (A) The Secretary of Defense.

11 (B) The Director of the Institute of Mu-
12 seum and Library Services.

13 (C) The heads of at least ten other rel-
14 evant Federal agencies, determined appropriate
15 by the Co-Chairs.

16 (D) Six non-Federal representatives who
17 each have expertise and experience in informa-
18 tion literacy (including evaluating and verifying
19 information) to be appointed by the Co-Chairs
20 of the Commission, three of whom shall be li-
21 brarians, including those from the education
22 and information science fields, and three of
23 whom shall be selected from military service or-
24 ganizations and veteran service organizations.

1 (2) ALTERNATES.—Each member of the Com-
2 mission may designate an alternate if the member is
3 unable to attend a meeting of the Commission if au-
4 thorized by the Co-Chairs.

5 (3) CO-CHAIRS.—The Secretary of Defense and
6 the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library
7 Services shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Commission.

8 (c) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall hold, at the
9 call of the Co-Chairs, at least 1 meeting every 4 months.
10 All such meetings shall be open to the public. The Com-
11 mission may hold, at the call of the Co-Chairs, such other
12 meetings as the Co-Chairs see fit to carry out this section.

13 (d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
14 Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-
15 ber of members may hold hearings.

16 (e) INITIAL MEETING.—The Commission shall hold
17 its first meeting not later than 180 days after the date
18 of enactment of this section.

19 (f) DUTIES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall take
21 actions as it determines necessary to improve and
22 increase access to information literacy skills and in-
23 struction so that servicemembers and their families,
24 veterans, children, students, adults, and seniors can

1 gain the tools needed to think critically about infor-
2 mation, and

3 (A) to address the lack of access to infor-
4 mation literacy education and tools, which may
5 not be fully integrated or taught in schools, the
6 workplace, and other aspects of life; and

7 (B) to address the ever-changing sources
8 of information and the constant evolution of
9 how information is consumed and utilized so
10 that all Americans have the tools to make in-
11 formed decisions about their lives.

12 (2) WEBSITE AND TOOLKITS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission
14 shall—

15 (i) establish, publicize (including on
16 military bases and through public librar-
17 ies), and maintain a website with the do-
18 main name “InformationLiteracy.gov”, or
19 a similar domain name; and

20 (ii) create toolkits specially designed
21 and targeted at different audiences, includ-
22 ing servicemembers and their families, vet-
23 erans, children, students, adults, and sen-
24 iors, to help them understand, evaluate,

1 and discern the reliability and accuracy of
2 information.

3 (B) PURPOSES.—The website established
4 under subparagraph (A) shall—

5 (i) disseminate best practices on infor-
6 mation literacy;

7 (ii) serve as a clearinghouse of infor-
8 mation about information literacy pro-
9 grams;

10 (iii) provide a coordinated entry point
11 for accessing information about Federal
12 publications, grants, and materials pro-
13 moting enhanced information literacy;

14 (iv) offer information on Federal
15 grants to promote information literacy,
16 and on how to target, apply for, and re-
17 ceive a grant that is most appropriate
18 under the circumstances;

19 (v) as the Commission considers ap-
20 propriate, feature website links to efforts
21 that have no commercial content and that
22 feature information about information lit-
23 eracy and education programs, materials,
24 or campaigns; and

1 (vi) offer such other information as
2 the Commission finds appropriate to share
3 with the public in the fulfillment of its pur-
4 pose.

5 (3) EMPHASIS.—In carrying out this section,
6 the Commission shall emphasize, at a minimum—

7 (A) how to find, retrieve, understand,
8 evaluate, analyze, and effectively use informa-
9 tion;

10 (B) how to distinguish accurate informa-
11 tion from non-creditable, unverified, and partial
12 information;

13 (C) how to avoid abusive, predatory, decep-
14 tive, and fraudulent information, scams, and
15 claims; and

16 (D) how to equip learners at every level
17 with strategies and tools, such as a questioning
18 approach, in order to solve problems and to
19 frame problems in ways that will assist them in
20 meeting expectations in the classroom, on the
21 battlefield, at the workplace, and in life as a
22 whole.

23 (g) DISSEMINATION.—The Commission shall identify
24 and disseminate high-quality materials to promote infor-
25 mation literacy to the general public.

1 (h) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AND NATIONAL
2 STRATEGIES.—The Commission shall take such steps as
3 are necessary to target and meet the needs of different
4 audiences, including servicemembers and their families,
5 veterans, children, students, adults, and seniors, including
6 to—

7 (1) coordinate information literacy efforts at
8 the State and local level, including promoting part-
9 nerships among Federal, State, local, and Tribal
10 governments, military service organizations, veteran
11 service organizations, nonprofit organizations, and
12 private enterprises; and

13 (2) develop and implement national strategies
14 to promote information literacy that would utilize
15 the partnerships described in paragraph (1), as ap-
16 propriate, and provide for—

17 (A) the development of methods to increase
18 information literacy;

19 (B) the enhancement of the general under-
20 standing of information literacy; and

21 (C) the review of Federal activities de-
22 signed to promote information literacy and de-
23 velopment of a plan to improve coordination of
24 such activities.

25 (i) REPORTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of the first meeting of the Commission, and
3 biennially thereafter, the Commission shall issue a
4 report on strategies for assuring information literacy
5 to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate
6 and the Committee on Armed Services of the House
7 of Representatives and other appropriate Commit-
8 tees on the progress of the Commission in carrying
9 out this section.

10 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under
11 paragraph (1) shall include—

12 (A) information concerning the implemen-
13 tation of the duties of the Commission under
14 subsection (f);

15 (B) an assessment of the success of the
16 Commission in implementing the targeted na-
17 tional strategies developed under subsection (h);

18 (C) an assessment of the availability, utili-
19 zation, and impact of Federal information lit-
20 eracy materials, including the website estab-
21 lished under subsection (f)(2)(A)(i), the toolkits
22 established under subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii), and
23 materials disseminated under subsection (g);

1 (D) a brief summary of any hearings con-
2 ducted by the Commission, including a list of
3 witnesses who testified at such hearings;

4 (E) information about the activities of the
5 Commission planned for the next fiscal year;

6 (F) a summary of all information literacy
7 activities targeted to underserved communities;
8 and

9 (G) such other materials relating to the
10 duties of the Commission as the Commission
11 determines appropriate.

12 (3) INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report under
13 paragraph (1) shall include information regarding all
14 Federal programs, materials, and grants which seek
15 to improve information literacy, and assess the effec-
16 tiveness of such programs.

17 (j) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

18 (1) HEARINGS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
20 hold such hearings, sit and act at such times
21 and places, take such testimony, and receive
22 such evidence as the Commission deems appro-
23 priate to carry out this section.

24 (B) PARTICIPATION.—In hearings held
25 under this subsection, the Commission shall

1 consider inviting witnesses from, among other
2 groups—

3 (i) other Federal Government officials;

4 (ii) State, local, and Tribal govern-
5 ment officials;

6 (iii) military service organizations;

7 (iv) veteran service organizations;

8 (v) information literacy experts, in-
9 cluding librarians, educators, and behav-
10 ioral and data scientists;

11 (vi) consumer and community groups;

12 and

13 (vii) nonprofit information literacy
14 groups.

15 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

16 The Commission may secure directly from any Fed-
17 eral department or agency such information as the
18 Commission considers necessary to carry out this
19 section. Upon request of the Co-Chairs, the head of
20 such department or agency shall furnish such infor-
21 mation to the Commission.

22 (3) PERIODIC STUDIES.—The Commission may
23 conduct periodic studies regarding the state of infor-
24 mation literacy in the United States, as the Commis-
25 sion determines appropriate.

1 (4) MULTILINGUAL.—The Commission may
2 take any action to develop and promote information
3 literacy and education materials in languages other
4 than English, as the Commission determines appro-
5 priate, including for the website established under
6 subsection (f)(2)(A)(i), the toolkits established under
7 subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii), and the materials developed
8 and disseminated under subsection (g).

9 (5) ARRANGEMENTS.—The Commission may
10 enter into arrangements, including interagency
11 agreements, grants, contracts, and cooperative
12 agreements with entities that the Co-Chairs deter-
13 mine appropriate.

14 (k) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

15 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each mem-
16 ber of the Commission shall serve without compensa-
17 tion in addition to that received for their service as
18 an officer or employee of the United States.

19 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
20 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
21 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
22 ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of
23 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
24 away from their homes or regular places of business
25 in the performance of services for the Commission.

1 (3) ASSISTANCE.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Department of De-
3 fense shall provide assistance to the Commis-
4 sion, upon request of the Commission, without
5 reimbursement.

6 (B) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOY-
7 EES.—Any Federal Government employee may
8 be detailed to the Commission without reim-
9 bursement, and such detail shall be without
10 interruption or loss of civil service status or
11 privilege.

12 (4) SPACE FOR USE OF COMMISSION.—Not
13 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment
14 of this section, the Administrator of General Serv-
15 ices, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense,
16 shall identify and make available suitable excess
17 space within the Federal space inventory to house
18 the operations of the Commission. If the Adminis-
19 trator is not able to make such suitable excess space
20 available within such 90-day period, the Commission
21 may lease space to the extent the funds are avail-
22 able.

23 (5) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Commis-
24 sion may acquire administrative supplies and equip-

1 ment for Commission use to the extent funds are
2 available.

3 (1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

4 (1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission
5 shall appoint and fix the rate of basic pay for an Ex-
6 ecutive Director in accordance with section 3161 of
7 title 5, United States Code.

8 (2) STAFF.—The Executive Director, with the
9 approval of the Commission, may appoint and fix
10 the rate of basic pay for additional personnel as
11 staff of the Commission in accordance with section
12 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

13 (m) STUDIES BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not
14 later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this sec-
15 tion, the Comptroller General of the United States shall
16 submit a report to Congress assessing the effectiveness of
17 the Commission in promoting information literacy.

18 (n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such
20 sums as may be necessary to carry out this section, includ-
21 ing administrative expenses of the Commission.

22 (o) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
23 ten years following the issuance of the Commission's first
24 report.

