AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-57
OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

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

1 SEC. 1762. INFORMATION LITERACY COMMISSION.
(a) Establishment of Information Literacy Commission.—

(1) Definitions.—In this section—

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

(B) the term “Commission” means the Information Literacy Commission established under this section; and

(C) the term “information literacy” means the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, understand, evaluate, analyze, and effectively use information (which encompasses spoken and broadcast words and videos, printed materials, and digital content, data, and images).

(2) Establishment.—There is established a commission to be known as the “Information Literacy Commission”.

(3) PURPOSE.—The Commission shall serve to improve the information literacy of servicemembers and their families and other persons in the United States through the development of national strategies and best practices to promote information literacy.

(b) COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION.—

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

(A) The Secretary of Defense.

(B) The Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

(C) The heads of at least ten other relevant Federal agencies, determined appropriate by the Co-Chairs.

(D) Six non-Federal representatives who each have expertise and experience in information literacy (including evaluating and verifying information) to be appointed by the Co-Chairs of the Commission, three of whom shall be librarians, including those from the education and information science fields, and three of whom shall be selected from military service organizations and veteran service organizations.
(2) ALTERNATES.—Each member of the Commission may designate an alternate if the member is unable to attend a meeting of the Commission if authorized by the Co-Chairs.

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

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

(d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

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

(f) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall take actions as it determines necessary to improve and increase access to information literacy skills and instruction so that servicemembers and their families, veterans, children, students, adults, and seniors can
gain the tools needed to think critically about information, and

(A) to address the lack of access to information literacy education and tools, which may not be fully integrated or taught in schools, the workplace, and other aspects of life; and

(B) to address the ever-changing sources of information and the constant evolution of how information is consumed and utilized so that all Americans have the tools to make informed decisions about their lives.

(2) WEBSITE AND TOOLKITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

(i) establish, publicize (including on military bases and through public libraries), and maintain a website with the domain name “InformationLiteracy.gov”, or a similar domain name; and

(ii) create toolkits specially designed and targeted at different audiences, including servicemembers and their families, veterans, children, students, adults, and seniors, to help them understand, evaluate,
and discern the reliability and accuracy of information.

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

(i) disseminate best practices on information literacy;

(ii) serve as a clearinghouse of information about information literacy programs;

(iii) provide a coordinated entry point for accessing information about Federal publications, grants, and materials promoting enhanced information literacy;

(iv) offer information on Federal grants to promote information literacy, and on how to target, apply for, and receive a grant that is most appropriate under the circumstances;

(v) as the Commission considers appropriate, feature website links to efforts that have no commercial content and that feature information about information literacy and education programs, materials, or campaigns; and
(vi) offer such other information as
the Commission finds appropriate to share
with the public in the fulfillment of its pur-
pose.

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

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

(B) how to distinguish accurate informa-
tion from non-credible, unverified, and partial
information;

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

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

(g) DISSEMINATION.—The Commission shall identify
and disseminate high-quality materials to promote infor-
mation literacy to the general public.
(h) **COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AND NATIONAL STRATEGIES.**—The Commission shall take such steps as are necessary to target and meet the needs of different audiences, including servicemembers and their families, veterans, children, students, adults, and seniors, including to—

(1) coordinate information literacy efforts at the State and local level, including promoting partnerships among Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, military service organizations, veteran service organizations, nonprofit organizations, and private enterprises; and

(2) develop and implement national strategies to promote information literacy that would utilize the partnerships described in paragraph (1), as appropriate, and provide for—

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

(B) the enhancement of the general understanding of information literacy; and

(C) the review of Federal activities designed to promote information literacy and development of a plan to improve coordination of such activities.

(i) **REPORTS.**—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the first meeting of the Commission, and biennially thereafter, the Commission shall issue a report on strategies for assuring information literacy to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and other appropriate Committees on the progress of the Commission in carrying out this section.

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

(A) information concerning the implementation of the duties of the Commission under subsection (f);

(B) an assessment of the success of the Commission in implementing the targeted national strategies developed under subsection (h);

(C) an assessment of the availability, utilization, and impact of Federal information literacy materials, including the website established under subsection (f)(2)(A)(i), the toolkits established under subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii), and materials disseminated under subsection (g);
(D) a brief summary of any hearings conducted by the Commission, including a list of witnesses who testified at such hearings;

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

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

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

(3) INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report under paragraph (1) shall include information regarding all Federal programs, materials, and grants which seek to improve information literacy, and assess the effectiveness of such programs.

(j) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission deems appropriate to carry out this section.

(B) PARTICIPATION.—In hearings held under this subsection, the Commission shall
consider inviting witnesses from, among other
groups—

(i) other Federal Government officials;
(ii) State, local, and Tribal govern-
ment officials;
(iii) military service organizations;
(iv) veteran service organizations;
(v) information literacy experts, in-
cluding librarians, educators, and behav-
ioral and data scientists;
(vi) consumer and community groups;
and
(vii) nonprofit information literacy
groups.

(2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—
The Commission may secure directly from any Fed-
eral department or agency such information as the
Commission considers necessary to carry out this
section. Upon request of the Co-Chairs, the head of
such department or agency shall furnish such infor-
mation to the Commission.

(3) PERIODIC STUDIES.—The Commission may
conduct periodic studies regarding the state of infor-
mation literacy in the United States, as the Commiss-
ion determines appropriate.
(4) MULTILINGUAL.—The Commission may take any action to develop and promote information literacy and education materials in languages other than English, as the Commission determines appropriate, including for the website established under subsection (f)(2)(A)(i), the toolkits established under subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii), and the materials developed and disseminated under subsection (g).

(5) ARRANGEMENTS.—The Commission may enter into arrangements, including interagency agreements, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements with entities that the Co-Chairs determine appropriate.

(k) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of the Commission shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their service as an officer or employee of the United States.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.
(3) Assistance.—

(A) In General.—The Department of Defense shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request of the Commission, without reimbursement.

(B) Detail of Government Employees.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(4) Space for Use of Commission.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall identify and make available suitable excess space within the Federal space inventory to house the operations of the Commission. If the Administrator is not able to make such suitable excess space available within such 90-day period, the Commission may lease space to the extent the funds are available.

(5) Contracting Authority.—The Commission may acquire administrative supplies and equip-
ment for Commission use to the extent funds are available.

(l) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

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

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

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

(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section, including administrative expenses of the Commission.

(o) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate ten years following the issuance of the Commission’s first report.