

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

33

OFFERED BY MR. LICCARDO OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XV, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 15___ . INTEGRATION AND EXPANSION OF HACKING**
2 **FOR DEFENSE COURSE.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) The Defense Innovation Unit’s Hacking for
5 Defense program serves as the Department of De-
6 fense’s academic front end for sourcing and vali-
7 dating operational problems through for-credit uni-
8 versity courses.

9 (2) The program has developed a new genera-
10 tion of national security entrepreneurs and produced
11 78 defense technology companies that have raised
12 nearly \$500,000,000 in private capital.

13 (3) Despite \$30,000,000 in enacted appropria-
14 tions to expand the program and a 36 percent re-
15 duction in cost per university, participation declined
16 30 percent, from 47 universities in fiscal year 2022
17 to 33 universities in fiscal year 2026, even as de-
18 mand from universities has increased.

1 (b) INTEGRATION WITH MISSION ENGINEERING AND
2 INTEGRATION ACTIVITY.—The Director of the Defense
3 Innovation Unit shall integrate the Hacking for Defense
4 program into the workflow of the Mission Engineering and
5 Integration Activity for the purpose of validating “Key
6 Operational Problems” prior to program initiation.

7 (c) TRANSITION PATHWAY.—The Director shall es-
8 tablish a formal transition pathway for ventures founded
9 by alumni of the Hacking for Defense program into the
10 Innovation Insertion Increment pipeline of the Defense In-
11 novation Unit.

12 (d) UNIVERSITY NETWORK EXPANSION.—The Direc-
13 tor shall expand the Hacking for Defense university net-
14 work to a scale sufficient to meet validated demand from
15 the combatant commands and the military departments.

16 (e) BRIEFING.—Not later than 45 days after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall provide
18 to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the
19 implementation of subsections (b) through (d), includ-
20 ing—

21 (1) a description of the process by which the
22 Hacking for Defense program will validate “Key
23 Operational Problems” within the Mission Engineer-
24 ing and Integration Activity workflow;

1 (2) the criteria and mechanisms for transition
2 of alumni ventures into the Innovation Insertion In-
3 crement pipeline;

4 (3) a plan, including resource requirements, to
5 expand the university network commensurate with
6 validated demand; and

7 (4) a description of how the \$10,000,000 ap-
8 propriated for fiscal year 2026 for the “Innovation
9 in Academia” program has been used to support the
10 Hacking for Dense program.

11 (f) HACKING FOR DEFENSE PROGRAM DEFINED.—
12 In this section, the term “Hacking for Defense program”
13 means the for-credit university course program adminis-
14 tered by the Defense Innovation Unit to source and vali-
15 date Department of Defense operational problems.

