AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-70

OFFERED BY MR. LOEBSACK OF IOWA

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following:

SEC. 221. STEM JOBS ACTION PLAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math in addition to maintenance and manufacturing (collectively referred to in this section as “STEM”) make up a significant portion of the workforce of the Department of Defense.

(2) These jobs exist within the organic industrial base, research, development, and engineering centers, life-cycle management commands, and logistics centers of the Department.

(3) Vital to the continued support of the mission of all of the military services, the Department needs to maintain its STEM workforce.

(4) It is known that the demographics of personnel of the Department indicate that many of the STEM personnel of the Department will be eligible to retire in the next few years.
(5) Decisive action is needed to replace STEM personnel as they retire to ensure that the military does not further suffer a skill and knowledge gap and thus a serious readiness gap.

(b) ASSESSMENTS AND PLAN OF ACTION.—The Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Secretary of each military department, shall —

(1) perform an assessment of the STEM workforce for organizations within the Department of Defense, including the numbers and types of positions and the expectations for losses due to retirements and voluntary departures;

(2) identify the types and quantities of STEM jobs needed to support future mission work;

(3) determine the shortfall between lost STEM personnel and future requirements;

(4) analyze and explain the appropriateness and impact of using reimbursable and working capital fund dollars for new STEM hires;

(5) identify a plan of action to address the STEM jobs gap, including hiring strategies and timelines for replacement of STEM employees; and
(6) deliver to Congress, not later than December 31, 2019, a report specifying such plan of action.