

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**118-36**

**OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 5\_\_\_.** **MILITARY CONSUMER PROTECTION TASK**  
2 **FORCE.**

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

4 (1) Members of the Armed Forces, veterans,  
5 and military families continue to be disproportion-  
6 ately targeted and impacted by imposter scams, in-  
7 vestment-related schemes, fake check scams, vet-  
8 erans' charity scams, pension poaching, and other  
9 methods of financial fraud.

10 (2) In 2022, the Federal Trade Commission  
11 Consumer Sentinel Network received over 195,000  
12 complaints from military consumers reporting a col-  
13 lective loss of more than \$414,000,000 stemming  
14 from imposter scams, fraud related to online shop-  
15 ping and negative reviews, bogus investment  
16 schemes, scams involving prizes, sweepstakes, and  
17 lotteries, fraudulent money offers and check scams,  
18 identity theft, and other complaint categories.

1           (3) The collective monetary harm of approxi-  
2           mately \$414,000,000 reported by military consumers  
3           in 2022 marked a more than 50% increase from the  
4           estimated \$267,000,000 reported in 2021.

5           (4) The exponential increase in financial fraud  
6           targeting members of the Armed Forces, veterans,  
7           and military families demands a robust and coordi-  
8           nated interagency approach that examines current  
9           and emerging fraudulent schemes to safeguard the  
10          financial security of our military consumers.

11          (b) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO PROTECT MEM-  
12          BERS, VETERANS, AND MILITARY FAMILIES FROM FI-  
13          NANCIAL FRAUD.—

14               (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days  
15               after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
16               retary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary  
17               of Veterans Affairs, shall establish an Interagency  
18               Task Force on Financial Fraud targeting members  
19               of the Armed Forces and veterans (referred to in  
20               this section as the “Task Force”).

21               (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force established  
22               under this section shall include representatives from  
23               the following:

24                       (A) The Department of Defense.

25                       (B) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 (C) The Federal Trade Commission.

2 (D) The Consumer Financial Protection  
3 Bureau.

4 (E) The Department of Justice.

5 (F) The Federal Communications Commis-  
6 sion.

7 (G) The Postal Inspection Service.

8 (H) Three representatives, appointed by  
9 the Secretary of Defense in consultation with  
10 the Secretary of the Department of Veterans  
11 Affairs, of non-governmental organizations (at  
12 least one of whom is a representative of a vet-  
13 erans' service organization) with expertise in  
14 identifying, preventing, and combatting finan-  
15 cial fraud targeting members of the Armed  
16 Forces, veterans, and military families.

17 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Task Force shall  
18 regularly consult with the following:

19 (A) Members of the Armed Forces, vet-  
20 erans, and members of military families that  
21 have been victims of financial fraud.

22 (B) Relevant Federal agencies and depart-  
23 ments that are not represented on the Task  
24 Force.

1           (C) Other relevant public and private sec-  
2           tor stakeholders, including State and local law  
3           enforcement agencies, financial services pro-  
4           viders, technology companies, and social media  
5           platforms.

6           (4) MEETINGS.—The Task Force shall not  
7           meet less frequently than three times per calendar  
8           year.

9           (5) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Task Force  
10          is to identify and examine current and developing  
11          methods of financial fraud targeting members of the  
12          Armed Forces, veterans, and military families and  
13          issue recommendations to enhance efforts under-  
14          taken by Federal agencies to identify, prevent, and  
15          combat such financial fraud.

16          (6) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force  
17          shall include the following:

18               (A) Collecting and reviewing robust data  
19               pertaining to medical billing, credit reporting,  
20               debt collection, and other serious financial chal-  
21               lenges facing members of the Armed Forces,  
22               veterans, and military families.

23               (B) Identifying and reviewing current  
24               methods of financial exploitation targeting

1 members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and  
2 military families, including—

3 (i) imposter or phishing scams;

4 (ii) investment-related fraud;

5 (iii) pension poaching;

6 (iv) veterans benefit fraud;

7 (v) fraudulent offers pertaining to em-  
8 ployment or business opportunities;

9 (vi) predatory lending;

10 (vii) veteran charity schemes;

11 (viii) foreign money offers and fake  
12 check scams;

13 (ix) mortgage foreclosure relief and  
14 debt management fraud;

15 (x) military allotment system abuse;

16 and

17 (xi) military records fraud.

18 (C) Identifying and evaluating the new fi-  
19 nancial risks that emerging financial tech-  
20 nologies, including buy-now-pay-later credit and  
21 digital payment ecosystems, may present to  
22 members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and  
23 military families.

24 (D) Evaluating the efficacy of current  
25 Federal programs, educational campaigns, poli-

1           cies, and statutes, including the Military Lend-  
2           ing Act and the Servicemembers Civil Relief  
3           Act, in preventing and combatting financial  
4           fraud targeting members of the Armed Forces,  
5           veterans, and military families.

6           (E) Developing recommendations to en-  
7           hance efforts of Federal agencies to detect, pre-  
8           vent, and combat financial fraud targeting  
9           members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and  
10          military families.

11          (7) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
12          the date of the enactment of this Act and annually  
13          thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to the ap-  
14          propriate congressional committees a report on its  
15          findings to date and recommendations to enhance  
16          the efforts of Federal agencies to identify, prevent,  
17          and combat financial fraud targeting members of the  
18          Armed Forces, veterans, and military families.

19          (8) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
20          TEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appro-  
21          priate congressional committees” means the fol-  
22          lowing:

23                  (A) The Committee on Oversight and Re-  
24                  form of the House of Representatives.

1 (B) The Committee on Armed Services of  
2 the House of Representatives.

3 (C) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of  
4 the House of Representatives.

5 (D) The Committee on Homeland Security  
6 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

7 (E) The Committee on Armed Services of  
8 the Senate.

9 (F) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of  
10 the Senate.

