

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-33
OFFERED BY MS. MCCOLLUM OF MINNESOTA

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

1 **SEC. 2___. AUTHORIZATION OF DEFENSE INNOVATION**
2 **ONRAMP HUB PROGRAM.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Defense, in
4 coordination with the Director of the Defense Innovation
5 Unit, shall establish and maintain a Defense Innovation
6 OnRamp Hub Program (in this section referred to as the
7 “Program”) to expand engagement with the national secu-
8 rity innovation base and to accelerate the identification,
9 maturation, transition, and fielding of commercial, dual-
10 use, and other nontraditional technologies relevant to the
11 missions of the Department of Defense.

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program are as
13 follows:

14 (1) To provide accessible regional entry points
15 for entrepreneurs, nontraditional defense contrac-
16 tors, academic institutions, investors, laboratories,
17 and other innovation ecosystem participants to en-
18 gage with the Department of Defense.

1 (2) To reduce barriers to entry for commercial
2 and dual-use technology companies seeking to sup-
3 port Department of Defense missions.

4 (3) To strengthen regional defense innovation
5 ecosystems in support of the national security inno-
6 vation base.

7 (4) To provide physical and digital infrastruc-
8 ture for education, ecosystem building, mentoring,
9 convening, collaboration, and other activities that fa-
10 cilitate the transition of dual-use technology into De-
11 partment of Defense use.

12 (c) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the Pro-
13 gram, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the
14 Director of the Defense Innovation Unit, shall—

15 (1) establish, designate, and support physical
16 OnRamp Hubs, distributed regional personnel, and
17 related partnerships;

18 (2) enter into agreements, cooperative agree-
19 ments, grants, contracts, other transactions, or part-
20 nerships with nonprofit entities, educational institu-
21 tions, State or local entities, federally funded re-
22 search and development centers, industry organiza-
23 tions, and other appropriate entities, consistent with
24 applicable law;

1 (3) provide standardized training, technical as-
2 sistance, transition support, and other programming
3 for the OnRamp Hub enterprise to maximize exper-
4 tise and help commercial and dual-use technology
5 companies understand and navigate Department of
6 Defense requirements and acquisition pathways;

7 (4) convene stakeholders from the Department
8 of Defense, private industry, venture and private
9 capital, academia, research institutions, national lab-
10 oratories, State and local governments, and other
11 entities to promote collaboration and technology
12 transition;

13 (5) ensure that each OnRamp Hub maintains
14 active and recurring engagement and collaboration
15 with—

16 (A) Defense Innovation Unit technical
17 leads;

18 (B) the combatant commands;

19 (C) the military departments;

20 (D) the Defense Agencies; and

21 (E) other relevant Department of Defense
22 and Federal innovation organizations, as appro-
23 priate for the purposes of identifying oper-
24 ational challenges, aligning technology efforts
25 with mission needs, and accelerating the transi-

1 tion and fielding of capabilities to the
2 warfighter; and

3 (6) facilitate direct interaction, through the
4 Program, between nontraditional technology pro-
5 viders and end users within the combatant com-
6 mands and military services to support demand sig-
7 naling, requirements refinement, and operational ex-
8 perimentation;

9 (d) EXISTING HUBS DEEMED AUTHORIZED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any Defense Innovation
11 OnRamp Hub in existence on the day before the
12 date of the enactment of this Act shall be deemed
13 to be authorized under this section.

14 (2) COVERED HUBS.—The hubs deemed author-
15 ized under paragraph (1) shall include the Defense
16 Innovation OnRamp Hubs located in—

17 (A) Arizona;

18 (B) Hawaii;

19 (C) Kansas;

20 (D) Kentucky;

21 (E) Minnesota;

22 (F) Montana;

23 (G) Ohio; and

24 (H) Washington.

1 (e) SELECTION OF REGIONAL NODES AND EXPAN-
2 SION.—In establishing regional nodes or expanding hubs
3 under the Program, the Secretary shall—

4 (1) designate such covered hubs as regional
5 nodes to incorporate the assets and capabilities of
6 neighboring States; and

7 (2) authorize not more than 15 total national
8 hubs, including existing covered hubs.

9 (f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
11 after, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the
12 Director of the Defense Innovation Unit, shall submit to
13 the congressional defense committees a report on the Pro-
14 gram. Each report shall include—

15 (1) a list of OnRamp Hubs in operation and re-
16 gional node designations;

17 (2) a description of activities conducted at each
18 hub;

19 (3) an assessment of barriers impacting Pro-
20 gram activities;

21 (4) a description of technologies, projects, or
22 companies supported through the Program and their
23 status in the transition pipeline;

24 (5) a description of how activities conducted at
25 each hub support the identification of priority oper-

1 ational challenges and contribute to capability devel-
2 opment for combatant commands and military serv-
3 ices; and

4 (6) an assessment of how activities conducted
5 through the Program align with and advance the
6 mission of the Defense Innovation Unit, including its
7 role in accelerating the adoption, scaling, and field-
8 ing of commercial capabilities to meet operational
9 needs of the Department of Defense.

