

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

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OFFERED BY MR. MOOLENAAR OF MICHIGAN

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

1 **SEC. 17__ . NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION ON AD-**
2 **VANCED ROBOTICS.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.—**

4 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**There is hereby established,
5 as of the date specified in paragraph (2), an inde-
6 pendent commission in the legislative branch to be
7 known as the “National Security Commission on Ad-
8 vanced Robotics” (in this section referred to as the
9 “Commission”).

10 (2) **DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—**The date of
11 establishment referred to in paragraph (1) is 30
12 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.—**

14 (1) **NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—**The Com-
15 mission shall be composed of 12 members appointed
16 as follows:

17 (A) Two members appointed by the Chair
18 of the Committee on Armed Services of the

1 Senate, one of whom is a Member of the Senate
2 and one of whom is not.

3 (B) Two members appointed by the rank-
4 ing member of the Committee on Armed Serv-
5 ices of the Senate, one of whom is a Member
6 of the Senate and one of whom is not.

7 (C) Two members appointed by the Chair
8 of the Committee on Armed Services of the
9 House of Representatives, one of whom is a
10 Member of the House, and one of whom is not.

11 (D) Two members appointed by the rank-
12 ing member of the Committee on Armed Serv-
13 ices of the House of Representatives, one of
14 whom is a Member of the House, and one of
15 whom is not.

16 (E) One member appointed by the Speaker
17 of the House of Representatives.

18 (F) One member appointed by the Minor-
19 ity Leader of the House of Representatives.

20 (G) One member appointed by the Major-
21 ity Leader of the Senate.

22 (H) One member appointed by the Minor-
23 ity Leader of the Senate.

24 (2) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Members
25 shall be appointed to the Commission under para-

1 graph (1) not later than 45 days after the Commis-
2 sion establishment date specified under subsection
3 (a)(2).

4 (3) EFFECT OF LACK OF APPOINTMENT BY AP-
5 POINTMENT DATE BY DEADLINE.—If an appoint-
6 ment under paragraph (1) is not made by the ap-
7 pointment date specified in paragraph (2), the au-
8 thority to make such appointment shall expire, and
9 the number of members of the Commission shall be
10 reduced by the number of equal to the number of
11 appointments not made as of such date.

12 (4) QUALIFICATIONS.—The members of the
13 Commission who are not Members of Congress and
14 who are appointed under subsection (b)(1) shall be
15 individuals from private civilian life who are recog-
16 nized experts and have relevant professional experi-
17 ence in matters relating to—

18 (A) advanced robotics and associated tech-
19 nologies, including autonomous systems, artifi-
20 cial intelligence integration, and human-ma-
21 chine interaction;

22 (B) the application of advanced robotics
23 and associated technologies by national policy-
24 makers, military leaders, defense organizations,

1 commercial enterprises, or civilian innovators;
2 or

3 (C) the implementation, funding, or over-
4 sight of national security, defense, commercial,
5 economic, or civilian innovation policies of the
6 United States as they relate to advanced robot-
7 ics.

8 (c) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—

9 (1) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Committee on
10 Armed Services of the Senate and the Chair of the
11 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives shall jointly designate one member of
13 the Commission to serve as Chair of the Commis-
14 sion.

15 (2) VICE CHAIR.—The ranking minority mem-
16 ber of the Committee on Armed Services of the Sen-
17 ate and the ranking member of the Committee on
18 Armed Services of the House of Representatives
19 shall jointly designate one member of the Commis-
20 sion to serve as Vice Chair of the Commission.

21 (d) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES.—
22 Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.
23 A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers
24 and shall be filled in the same manner as the original ap-
25 pointment was made.

1 (e) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Commission is to
2 examine and make recommendations with respect to ad-
3 vanced robotics and associated systems as it pertains to
4 current and future missions and activities of the Depart-
5 ment of Defense, other national security agencies, and the
6 broader defense, commercial, and civilian innovation eco-
7 systems of the United States.

8 (f) SCOPE AND DUTIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall carry
10 out a review of the advances in robotics and associ-
11 ated technologies and systems, prioritizing those
12 with direct defense and national security relevance.
13 In carrying out such review, the Commission shall
14 consider the methods, means, and investments nec-
15 essary to advance and secure American dominance
16 in the development and deployment of advanced ro-
17 botics to comprehensively address the national secu-
18 rity and defense needs of the United States.

19 (2) SCOPE OF THE REVIEW.—In conducting the
20 review described in this subsection, the Commission
21 shall consider the following:

22 (A) The global competitiveness of the
23 United States in advanced robotics and associ-
24 ated autonomous systems for military and na-
25 tional security purposes, including matters re-

1 lated to national security, defense, public-pri-
2 vate partnerships, and investments.

3 (B) Means, methods, and investments for
4 the United States to maintain and protect its
5 technological advantage in advanced robotics,
6 autonomous systems, and associated systems
7 related to the national security, defense, and in-
8 dustrial base requirements of the United States.

9 (C) Developments and trends in inter-
10 national cooperation and competitiveness, in-
11 cluding foreign investments in advanced robot-
12 ics, autonomous systems, and associated tech-
13 nologies that are scientifically and materially
14 related to defense and national security.

15 (D) Means by which to foster greater em-
16 phasis and investments in basic and advanced
17 research to stimulate government, industry,
18 academic, and combined initiatives in robotics,
19 autonomous systems, and associated tech-
20 nologies to the extent that such efforts have
21 material application related to national security
22 and defense manufacturing.

23 (E) Means by which to foster greater em-
24 phasis and investments in advanced develop-
25 ment and test and evaluation of robotics and

1 autonomous capabilities directly relevant to de-
2 fense applications, to strengthen the United
3 States defense industrial base and accelerate
4 the acquisition, fielding, and adoption of such
5 systems for national security purposes.

6 (F) Workforce and education incentives
7 and programs to attract, recruit, and retain
8 leading talent in fields relevant to the develop-
9 ment and sustainment of advanced robotics and
10 autonomous systems for defense and national
11 security applications, including artificial intel-
12 ligence, humanoid robotics, manufacturing, en-
13 gineering, data science, and other related dis-
14 ciplines.

15 (G) Risks and threats associated with ad-
16 vances in military employment of robotics and
17 autonomous systems.

18 (H) Associated ethical, legal, social, oper-
19 ational, and environmental considerations re-
20 lated to robotics, autonomous systems, and as-
21 sociated technologies as it will be used for fu-
22 ture applications related to defense, economic,
23 and national security.

24 (I) Means to establish international stand-
25 ards for the tools of robotics, autonomous sys-

1 tems, and related cybersecurity in coordination
2 with United States defense partners to enhance
3 interoperability and safeguard national security.

4 (J) Means to establish data sharing capa-
5 bilities within and amongst the Department of
6 Defense and relevant national security agencies,
7 industry, and academia to foster collaboration
8 and accelerate innovation, while maintaining
9 privacy and security for data as required for
10 national security and personal protection pur-
11 poses.

12 (K) Consideration of the transformative
13 potential and rapidly-changing developments of
14 advanced robotics and autonomous systems and
15 appropriate mechanisms for managing such
16 technologies relating to national security and
17 defense.

18 (L) Any other matters the Commission
19 deems relevant to national security.

20 (g) COMMISSION REPORT AND RECOMMENDA-
21 TIONS.—

22 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
23 after the Commission establishment date specified in
24 subsection (a)(2), the Commission shall submit to
25 the congressional defense committees an interim re-

1 port on the status of the Commission's review and
2 assessment, including a discussion of any interim
3 recommendations.

4 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
5 after the Commission establishment date specified in
6 subsection (a)(2), the Commission shall submit to
7 the congressional defense committees a final report
8 on the findings of the Commission and any such rec-
9 ommendations that the Commission may have for
10 action by Congress and the Federal Government.

11 (3) FORM.—The reports submitted under para-
12 graphs (1) and (2) shall be submitted in unclassified
13 form, but may include a classified annex.

14 (h) GOVERNMENT COOPERATION.—

15 (1) COOPERATION.—In carrying out its duties,
16 the Commission shall receive the full and timely co-
17 operation of the of the Secretary of Defense and
18 other Federal departments and agencies in providing
19 the Commission with analysis, briefings, and other
20 information necessary for the fulfillment of its re-
21 sponsibilities.

22 (2) LIAISON.—The Secretary of Defense shall
23 designate at least one officer or employee of the De-
24 partment of Defense to serve as a liaison officer be-
25 tween the Department and the Commission.

1 (3) DETAILEES AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
2 of Defense and the heads of other departments and
3 agencies of the Federal Government may provide,
4 and the Commission may accept and employ, per-
5 sonnel detailed from the Department of Defense and
6 such other department and agencies without reim-
7 bursement.

8 (i) FACILITATION.—

9 (1) INDEPENDENT, NONGOVERNMENT INSTI-
10 TUTE.—Not later than 45 days after the Commis-
11 sion establishment date specified in subsection
12 (a)(2), the Secretary of Defense may make available
13 to the Commission the services of an independent,
14 nongovernmental institute described in section
15 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
16 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such
17 Code, that has recognized credentials and expertise
18 in national security and military affairs in order to
19 facilitate the Commission’s discharge of its duties
20 under this section.

21 (2) FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DE-
22 VELOPMENT CENTER.—On request of the Commis-
23 sion, the Secretary of Defense shall make available
24 the services of a federally funded research and devel-
25 opment center that is covered by a sponsoring agree-

1 ment of the Department of Defense in order to en-
2 hance the Commission's efforts to discharge its du-
3 ties under this section.

4 (j) EXPEDITION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The
5 Office of Senate Security and the Office of House Security
6 shall ensure the expedited processing of appropriate secu-
7 rity clearances under processes developed for the clearance
8 of legislative branch employees for any personnel ap-
9 pointed to the Commission by their respective offices of
10 the Senate and House of Representatives and any per-
11 sonnel appointed by the Executive Director appointed
12 under subsection (i).

13 (k) SERVICES.—

14 (1) DOD SERVICES.—The Secretary of Defense
15 may provide to the Commission, on a nonreimburs-
16 able basis, such administrative services, funds, staff,
17 facilities, and other support services as are necessary
18 for the performance of the Commission's duties
19 under this section.

20 (2) OTHER AGENCIES.—In addition to any sup-
21 port provided under paragraph (1), the heads of
22 other Federal departments and agencies may provide
23 to the Commission such services, funds, facilities,
24 staff, and other support as the heads of such depart-

1 ments and agencies determine advisable and as may
2 be authorized by law.

3 (l) STAFF.—

4 (1) STATUS AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Not-
5 withstanding the requirements of section 2105 of
6 title 5, United States Code, including the required
7 supervision under subsection (a)(3) of such section,
8 any member of the Commission who is not a Mem-
9 ber of Congress shall be considered to be a Federal
10 employee.

11 (2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission
12 shall appoint and fix the rate of basic pay for an Ex-
13 ecutive Director in accordance with section 3161(d)
14 of title 5, United States Code.

15 (3) PAY.—The Executive Director, with the ap-
16 proval of the Commission, may appoint and fix the
17 rate of basic pay for an Executive Director in ac-
18 cordance with section 3161(d) of title 5, United
19 States Code.

20 (m) PERSONAL SERVICES.—

21 (1) AUTHORITY TO PROCURE.—The Commis-
22 sion may—

23 (A) procure the services of experts or con-
24 sultants (or of organizations of experts or con-

1 sultants) in accordance with the provisions of
2 section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; and

3 (B) pay in connection with such services
4 travel expenses of individuals, including trans-
5 portation and per diem in lieu of subsistence,
6 while such individuals are traveling from their
7 homes or places of business to duty stations.

8 (2) MAXIMUM DAILY PAY RATES.—The daily
9 rate paid an expert or consultant procured pursuant
10 to paragraph (1) may not exceed the daily rate paid
11 a person occupying a position at level IV of the Ex-
12 ecutive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5,
13 United States Code.

14 (n) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GIFTS.—The Commis-
15 sion may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations
16 of services, goods, and property from nonfederal entities
17 for the purposes of aiding and facilitating the work of the
18 Commission. The authority in this subsection does not ex-
19 tend to gifts of money. Gifts accepted under this authority
20 shall be documented, and conflicts of interest or the ap-
21 pearance of conflicts of interest shall be avoided. Subject
22 to the authority in this section, members of the Commis-
23 sion shall otherwise comply with rules set forth by the Se-
24 lect Committee on Ethics of the Senate and the Committee

1 on Ethics of the House of Representatives governing em-
2 ployees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

3 (o) LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Com-
4 mission shall operate as a legislative advisory committee.

5 (p) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Commission
6 may acquire administrative supplies and equipment for
7 Commission use to the extent funds are available.

8 (q) USE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION.—The
9 Commission may secure directly from the Department of
10 Defense or any other department or agency of the Federal
11 Government such information as the Commission consider
12 necessary to carry out its duties. Upon such request of
13 the chair of the Commission, the head of such department
14 or agency shall furnish such information to the Commis-
15 sion.

16 (r) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
17 the United States mail in the same manner and under the
18 same conditions as Federal departments and agencies.

19 (s) SPACE FOR USE OF COMMISSION.—Not later
20 than 30 days after the establishment date of the Commis-
21 sion, the Administrator of General Services, in consulta-
22 tion with the Commission, shall identify and make avail-
23 able suitable excess space within the Federal space inven-
24 tory to house the operations of the Commission. If the Ad-
25 ministrator is not able to make such suitable excess space

1 available within such 30-day period, the Commission may
2 lease space to the extent the funds are available.

3 (t) REMOVAL OF MEMBERS.—A member may be re-
4 moved from the Commission for cause by the individual
5 serving in the position responsible for the original appoint-
6 ment of such member under subsection (b)(1), provided
7 that notice has first been provided to such member of the
8 cause for removal and voted and agreed upon by three-
9 quarters of the members serving. A vacancy created by
10 the removal of a member under this subsection shall not
11 affect the powers of the Commission, and shall be filled
12 in the same manner as the original appointment was
13 made.

14 (u) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
15 18 months after the date on which it submits the final
16 report required by subsection (g).

17 (v) DEFINITION OF ROBOTICS.—In this section, the
18 term “robotics” includes each of the following:

19 (1) Programmable multifunctional mechanical
20 devices designed to move material, parts, tools, or
21 specialized devices through variable programmed mo-
22 tions to perform a variety of tasks.

23 (2) Programmed actuated mechanisms with a
24 degree of autonomy to perform locomotion, manipu-
25 lation or positioning.

1 (3) Automatically controlled, reprogrammable,
2 multipurpose manipulators, programmable in three
3 or more axes, which can be either fixed in place or
4 fixed to a mobile platform for use in automation ap-
5 plications in an industrial environment.

6 (4) Machines that—

7 (A) can sense their environment;

8 (B) have the capacity to process the infor-
9 mation they sense; and

10 (C) are organized to act directly upon their
11 environment.

12 (5) Mechanical devices that are capable of loco-
13 motion, navigation, or movement on the ground, and
14 operate at a distance from one or more operators or
15 supervisors based on commands or in response to
16 sensor data, or through any combination thereof,
17 and that may also be referred to as unmanned
18 ground vehicle systems.

