

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**118-35**

**OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO**

Add at the end of subtitle C of title XVII the following:

1 **SEC. 17\_\_\_ . PILOT PROGRAM TO EMPLOY VETERANS IN POS-**  
2 **SITIONS RELATING TO FEDERAL WILDLAND**  
3 **FIREFIGHTING ACTIVITIES.**

4 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Veterans  
5 Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture  
6 and the Secretary of the Interior, shall jointly establish  
7 a pilot program to employ veterans in wildland firefighting  
8 activities.

9 (b) **DUTIES.**—Under such pilot program—

10 (1) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall be  
11 responsible for administering such pilot program;  
12 and

13 (2) the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-  
14 retary of the Interior shall be responsible for—

15 (A) identifying vacant positions in the De-  
16 partment of Agriculture and the Department of  
17 the Interior, respectively, that are appropriate

1           for veterans selected for participation in such  
2           pilot program; and

3                   (B) to the extent practicable, employing  
4           such veterans in such positions.

5           (c) APPLICATION OF CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—A vet-  
6    eran employed under the pilot program under subsection  
7    (a) shall be treated as an employee (as defined in section  
8    2105 of title 5, United States Code).

9           (d) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary of Veterans  
10   Affairs shall establish guidelines that include best prac-  
11   tices for departments and agencies of the Federal Govern-  
12   ment that carry out programs to employ veterans who are  
13   transitioning from service in the Armed Forces. Such  
14   guidelines shall include—

15                   (1) lessons learned under the Warrior Training  
16    Advancement Course of the Department of Veterans  
17    Affairs; and

18                   (2) methods to realize cost savings based on  
19    such lessons.

20           (e) PARTNERSHIP.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-  
21   fairs, the Secretaries concerned, and the Secretary of De-  
22   fense may enter into a partnership to include the pilot pro-  
23   gram under subsection (a) as part of the Skillbridge pro-  
24   gram under section 1143 of title 10, United States Code.

25           (f) REPORTS.—

1           (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days  
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3 retary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretaries con-  
4 cerned shall jointly submit to the appropriate con-  
5 gressional committees a report on the pilot program  
6 under subsection (a), including—

7           (A) a description of how such pilot pro-  
8 gram will be carried out in a manner to reduce  
9 the unemployment of veterans; and

10           (B) any recommendations for legislative  
11 actions to improve such pilot program.

12           (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than one  
13 year after the date on which the Secretary of Vet-  
14 erans Affairs commences such pilot program, such  
15 Secretary and the Secretaries concerned shall jointly  
16 submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
17 a report on the implementation of such pilot pro-  
18 gram.

19           (3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days  
20 after the date on which such pilot program con-  
21 cludes, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the  
22 Secretaries concerned shall jointly submit to the ap-  
23 propriate congressional committees a report that in-  
24 cludes—

25           (A) an identification of—

1 (i) the number of veterans who ap-  
2 plied to participate in such pilot program;

3 (ii) the number of such veterans em-  
4 ployed pursuant to such pilot program; and

5 (iii) the number of veterans described  
6 in clause (ii) who transitioned to full-time  
7 positions with the Federal Government  
8 after participating in such pilot program;  
9 and

10 (B) any other information the Secretaries  
11 determine appropriate with respect to meas-  
12 uring the effectiveness of such pilot program.

13 (g) TERMINATION DATE.—The authority to carry out  
14 the pilot program under subsection (a) shall terminate on  
15 the date that is two years after the date on which the Sec-  
16 retary of Veterans Affairs commences such pilot program.

17 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
19 mittees” means the following:

20 (A) The Committee on Agriculture of the  
21 House of Representatives.

22 (B) The Committee on Natural Resources  
23 of the House of Representatives.

24 (C) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of  
25 the House of Representatives.

1 (D) The Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-  
2 tion, and Forestry of the Senate.

3 (E) The Committee on Energy and Nat-  
4 ural Resources of the Senate.

5 (F) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of  
6 the Senate.

7 (2) The term "wildland firefighting activities"  
8 means any temporary, seasonal, or permanent posi-  
9 tion at the Department of Agriculture or the De-  
10 partment of the Interior, and Tribal Firefighters,  
11 that maintains group, emergency incident manage-  
12 ment, or fire qualifications, as established annually  
13 by the Standards for Wildland Fire Position Quali-  
14 fications published by the National Wildfire Coordi-  
15 nating Group, that primarily engages in or supports  
16 wildland fire management, including forestry and  
17 rangeland technicians and positions concerning avia-  
18 tion, engineering heavy equipment operations, dis-  
19 patch, or fire and fuels management.

