

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-10
OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle C of title XVIII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 18__ . JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AFGHANISTAN.**

2 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a joint
3 select committee of Congress to be known as the “Joint
4 Select Committee on Afghanistan” (in this section re-
5 ferred to as the “Joint Committee”).

6 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

7 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Joint Committee shall
8 be composed of 12 members appointed pursuant to
9 paragraph (2).

10 (2) **APPOINTMENT.**—Members of the Joint
11 Committee shall be appointed as follows:

12 (A) The majority leader of the Senate shall
13 appoint 3 members from among Members of
14 the Senate.

15 (B) The minority leader of the Senate shall
16 appoint 3 members from among Members of
17 the Senate.

1 (C) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives shall appoint 3 members from
3 among Members of the House of Representa-
4 tives.

5 (D) The minority leader of the House of
6 Representatives shall appoint 3 members from
7 among Members of the House of Representa-
8 tives.

9 (3) CO-CHAIRS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Two of the appointed
11 members of the Joint Committee shall serve as
12 co-chairs. The Speaker of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and the majority leader of the Sen-
14 ate shall jointly appoint one co-chair, and the
15 minority leader of the House of Representatives
16 and the minority leader of the Senate shall
17 jointly appoint the second co-chair. The co-
18 chairs shall be appointed not later than 14 cal-
19 endar days after the date of the enactment of
20 this Act.

21 (B) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The co-chairs, act-
22 ing jointly, shall hire the staff director of the
23 Joint Committee.

1 (4) DATE.—Members of the Joint Committee
2 shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 (5) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall
5 be appointed for the life of the Joint Committee.
6 Any vacancy in the Joint Committee shall not affect
7 its powers, but shall be filled not later than 14 cal-
8 endar days after the date on which the vacancy oc-
9 curs, in the same manner as the original designation
10 was made. If a member of the Joint Committee
11 ceases to be a Member of the House of Representa-
12 tives or the Senate, as the case may be, the member
13 is no longer a member of the Joint Committee and
14 a vacancy shall exist.

15 (c) INVESTIGATION AND REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint
18 Committee shall conduct an investigation and submit
19 to Congress a report on the United States 2021
20 withdrawal from Afghanistan.

21 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
22 paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

23 (A) A summary of any intelligence reports
24 that indicated an imminent threat at the
25 Hamid Karzai International Airport preceding

1 the deadly attack on August 26, 2021, and the
2 risks to United States and allied country civil-
3 ians as well as Afghan partners for various
4 United States withdrawal scenarios.

5 (B) A summary of any intelligence reports
6 that indicated that withdrawing military per-
7 sonnel and closing United States military in-
8 stallations in Afghanistan before evacuating ci-
9 vilians would negatively affect the evacuation of
10 United States citizens, green card holders, and
11 Afghan partners and thus put them at risk.

12 (C) A full review of planning by the Na-
13 tional Security Council, the Department of
14 State, and the Department of Defense for a
15 noncombatant evacuation from Afghanistan, in-
16 cluding details of all scenarios used by the De-
17 partment of State or the Department of De-
18 fense to plan and prepare for noncombatant
19 evacuation operations.

20 (D) An analysis of the relationship be-
21 tween the retrograde and noncombatant evacu-
22 ation operation plans and operations.

23 (E) A description of any actions that were
24 taken by the United States Government to pro-

1 tect the safety of United States forces and neu-
2 tralize threats in any withdrawal scenarios.

3 (F) A full review of all withdrawal sce-
4 narios compiled by the intelligence community
5 and the Department of Defense with timelines
6 for the decisions taken, including all advice pro-
7 vided by military leaders to President Joseph R.
8 Biden and his national security team beginning
9 in January 2021.

10 (G) An analysis of why the withdrawal
11 timeline expedited from the September 11,
12 2021, date set by President Biden earlier this
13 year.

14 (H) An analysis of United States and al-
15 lied intelligence shared with the Taliban.

16 (I) An analysis of any actions taken by the
17 United States Government to proactively pre-
18 pare for a successful withdrawal.

19 (J) A summary of intelligence that in-
20 formed statements and assurances made to the
21 American people that the Taliban would not
22 take over Afghanistan with the speed that it did
23 in August 2021.

24 (K) A full and unredacted transcript of the
25 phone call between President Joe Biden and

1 President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan on July
2 23, 2021.

3 (L) A summary of any documents, reports,
4 or intelligence that indicates whether any mem-
5 bers of the intelligence community, the United
6 States Armed Forces, or NATO partners sup-
7 porting the mission warned that the Taliban
8 would swiftly reclaim Afghanistan.

9 (M) A description of the extent to which
10 any members of the intelligence community, the
11 United States Armed Forces, or NATO part-
12 ners supporting the mission advised steps to be
13 taken by the White House that were ultimately
14 rejected.

15 (N) An assessment of the decision not to
16 order a noncombatant evacuation operation
17 until August 14, 2021.

18 (O) An assessment of whose advice the
19 President heeded in maintaining the timeline
20 and the status of forces on the ground before
21 Thursday, August 12, 2021.

22 (P) A description of the initial views and
23 advice of the United States Armed Forces and
24 the intelligence community given to the Na-
25 tional Security Council and the White House

1 before the decisions were taken regarding clo-
2 sure of United States military installations,
3 withdrawal of United States assets, and with-
4 drawal of United States military personnel.

5 (Q) An assessment of United States assets,
6 as well as any assets left behind by allies, that
7 could now be used by the Taliban, ISIS–K, and
8 other terrorist organizations operating within
9 the region.

10 (R) An assessment of United States assets
11 slated to be delivered to Afghanistan, if any,
12 the delivery of which was paused because of the
13 President’s decision to withdraw, and the status
14 of and plans for those assets now.

15 (S) An assessment of vetting procedures
16 for Afghan civilians to be evacuated with a
17 timeline for the decision making and ultimate
18 decisions taken to ensure that no terrorist sus-
19 pects, persons with ties to terrorists, or dan-
20 gerous individuals would be admitted into third
21 countries or the United States.

22 (T) An assessment of the discussions be-
23 tween the United States Government and allies
24 supporting our efforts in Afghanistan and a
25 timeline for decision making regarding the with-

1 drawal of United States forces, including dis-
2 cussion and decisions about how to work to-
3 gether to repatriate all foreign nationals desir-
4 ing to return to their home countries.

5 (U) A review of the policy decisions with
6 timeline regarding all Afghan nationals and
7 other refugees evacuated from Afghanistan by
8 the United States Government and brought to
9 third countries and the United States, including
10 a report on what role the United States Armed
11 Forces performed in vetting each individual and
12 what coordination the Departments of State
13 and Defense engaged in to safeguard members
14 of the Armed Forces from infectious diseases
15 and terrorist threats.

16 (3) FORM.—The report required under para-
17 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but
18 may contain a classified annex.

19 (d) MEETINGS.—

20 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days
21 after the date on which all members of the Joint
22 Committee have been appointed, the Joint Com-
23 mittee shall hold its first meeting.

24 (2) FREQUENCY.—The Joint Committee shall
25 meet at the call of the co-chairs.

1 (3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
2 the Joint Committee shall constitute a quorum, but
3 a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

4 (4) VOTING.—No proxy voting shall be allowed
5 on behalf of the members of the Joint Committee.

6 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—To enable the Joint Com-
8 mittee to exercise its powers, functions, and duties,
9 there are authorized to be disbursed by the Senate
10 the actual and necessary expenses of the Joint Com-
11 mittee approved by the co-chairs, subject to the rules
12 and regulations of the Senate.

13 (2) EXPENSES.—In carrying out its functions,
14 the Joint Committee is authorized to incur expenses
15 in the same manner and under the same conditions
16 as the Joint Economic Committee is authorized by
17 section 11 of Public Law 79–304 (15 U.S.C. 1024
18 (d)).

19 (3) HEARINGS.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Joint Committee
21 may, for the purpose of carrying out this sec-
22 tion, hold such hearings, sit and act at such
23 times and places, require attendance of wit-
24 nesses and production of books, papers, and
25 documents, take such testimony, receive such

1 evidence, and administer such oaths as the
2 Joint Committee considers advisable.

3 (B) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPON-
4 SIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

5 (i) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The co-chairs
6 of the Joint Committee shall make a public
7 announcement of the date, place, time, and
8 subject matter of any hearing to be con-
9 ducted, not less than 7 days in advance of
10 such hearing, unless the co-chairs deter-
11 mine that there is good cause to begin
12 such hearing at an earlier date.

13 (ii) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A wit-
14 ness appearing before the Joint Committee
15 shall file a written statement of proposed
16 testimony at least 2 calendar days before
17 the appearance of the witness, unless the
18 requirement is waived by the co-chairs, fol-
19 lowing their determination that there is
20 good cause for failure to comply with such
21 requirement.

22 (4) COOPERATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

23 (A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon writ-
24 ten request of the co-chairs, a Federal agency
25 shall provide technical assistance to the Joint

1 Committee in order for the Joint Committee to
2 carry out its duties.

3 (B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—The
4 Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense,
5 the Director of National Intelligence, the heads
6 of the elements of the intelligence community,
7 the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the
8 National Security Council shall expeditiously re-
9 spond to requests for information related to
10 compiling the report under subsection (c).

11 (f) STAFF OF JOINT COMMITTEE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Joint
13 Committee may jointly appoint and fix the com-
14 pensation of staff as they deem necessary, within the
15 guidelines for employees of the Senate and following
16 all applicable rules and employment requirements of
17 the Senate.

18 (2) ETHICAL STANDARDS.—Members on the
19 Joint Committee who serve in the House of Rep-
20 resentatives shall be governed by the ethics rules and
21 requirements of the House. Members of the Senate
22 who serve on the Joint Committee and staff of the
23 Joint Committee shall comply with the ethics rules
24 of the Senate.

1 (g) TERMINATION.—The Joint Committee shall ter-
2 minate on the date that is one year after the date of the
3 enactment of this Act.

4 (h) FUNDING.—Funding for the Joint Committee
5 shall be derived in equal portions from—

6 (1) the applicable accounts of the House of
7 Representatives; and

8 (2) the contingent fund of the Senate from the
9 appropriations account “Miscellaneous Items”, sub-
10 ject to the rules and regulations of the Senate.

