

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-**

**33**

**OFFERED BY MR. OBERNOLTE OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII insert the following:

1 **SEC. 17\_\_ . NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION ON ROBOT-**  
2 **ICS.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established,  
4 as of the date that is 30 days after the date of the enact-  
5 ment of this Act, an independent commission in the legis-  
6 lative branch to be known as the “National Security Com-  
7 mission on Robotics” (in this section referred to as the  
8 “Commission”). The Commission shall examine and make  
9 recommendations with respect to robotics in relation to the  
10 current and future missions and activities of the Depart-  
11 ment of Defense.

12 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

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

16 (A) Two members appointed by the Chair  
17 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 minority member of the Committee on  
5 Armed Services of the Senate, one of whom is  
6 a Member of the Senate and one of whom is  
7 not.

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

13 (D) Two members appointed by the rank-  
14 ing minority member of the Committee on  
15 Armed Services of the House of Representa-  
16 tives, one of whom is a Member of the House  
17 of Representatives and one of whom is not.

18 (E) One member appointed by the Speaker  
19 of the House of Representatives.

20 (F) One member appointed by the minority  
21 leader of the House of Representatives.

22 (G) One member appointed by the majority  
23 leader of the Senate.

24 (H) One member appointed by the minor-  
25 ity leader of the Senate.

1           (2) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Members  
2 shall be appointed to the Commission under para-  
3 graph (1) not later than 45 days after the date of  
4 the establishment of the Commission.

5           (3) EFFECT OF LACK OF APPOINTMENT BY AP-  
6 POINTMENT DATE.—If one or more appointments  
7 under paragraph (1) is not made by the deadline  
8 specified in paragraph (2), the authority to make  
9 such appointment or appointments shall expire, and  
10 the number of members of the Commission shall be  
11 reduced by the number equal to the number of ap-  
12 pointments so not made.

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

19                   (A) robotics and associated technologies;

20                   (B) the use of emerging robotics and asso-  
21 ciated technologies by national policy makers  
22 and military leaders; or

23                   (C) the implementation, funding, or over-  
24 sight of the national security policies of the  
25 United States.

1           (5) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT AND VACAN-  
2           CIES.—Members shall be appointed for the life of  
3           the Commission. A vacancy in the Commission shall  
4           not affect its powers and shall be filled in the same  
5           manner as the original appointment was made.

6           (6) REMOVAL.—A member may be removed  
7           from the Commission for cause by the individual  
8           serving in the position responsible for the original  
9           appointment of such member under this subsection  
10          if notice has first been provided to such member of  
11          the cause for removal and the other members of the  
12          Commission have voted and agreed to the removal  
13          by three quarters of the members serving. A vacancy  
14          created by the removal of a member under this para-  
15          graph shall not affect the powers of the Commission  
16          and shall be filled in the same manner as the origi-  
17          nal appointment was made.

18          (c) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—

19               (1) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Committee on  
20               Armed Services of the Senate and the Chair of the  
21               Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-  
22               resentatives shall jointly designate one member of  
23               the Commission to serve as Chair of the Commis-  
24               sion.

1           (2) VICE CHAIR.—The ranking minority mem-  
2           ber of the Committee on Armed Services of the Sen-  
3           ate and the ranking minority member of the Com-  
4           mittee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-  
5           resentatives shall jointly designate one member of  
6           the Commission to serve as Vice Chair of the Com-  
7           mission.

8           (d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall carry  
10          out a review of advances in robotics and associated  
11          technologies. In carrying out such review, the Com-  
12          mission shall consider the methods, means, and in-  
13          vestments necessary to advance the development of  
14          robotics and associated technologies by the United  
15          States to comprehensively address the national secu-  
16          rity needs of the United States.

17          (2) SCOPE OF THE REVIEW.—In conducting  
18          such review, the Commission shall consider each of  
19          the following:

20                 (A) The national security competitiveness  
21                 of the United States in robotics and other asso-  
22                 ciated technologies with respect to defense, pub-  
23                 lic-private partnerships, and investments.

1 (B) Means and methods for the United  
2 States to maintain a technological advantage in  
3 robotics and other associated technologies.

4 (C) Means by which to foster greater em-  
5 phasis and investments in basic and advanced  
6 research to stimulate private, public, academic,  
7 and combined initiatives in robotics and other  
8 associated technologies to support national se-  
9 curity.

10 (D) Risks associated with United States  
11 and foreign country advances in military em-  
12 ployment of robotics, including international  
13 law of armed conflict, international humani-  
14 tarian law, and escalation dynamics.

15 (E) Associated ethical considerations re-  
16 lated to robotics with respect to expected future  
17 applications, including applications related to  
18 national security and defense.

19 (F) Means to establish data standards and  
20 provide incentives for the sharing of open train-  
21 ing data within national security and defense  
22 data-driven industries.

23 (G) Consideration of the evolution of ro-  
24 botics and appropriate mechanisms for man-

1           aging robotics as related to national security  
2           and defense.

3                   (H) Any other matters the Commission de-  
4           termines relevant to the common defense and  
5           economic competitiveness of the United States  
6           as related to robotics.

7           (e) COMMISSION REPORT AND RECOMMENDA-  
8   TIONS.—

9                   (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 270  
10          days after the establishment of the Commission, the  
11          Commission shall submit to the congressional de-  
12          fense committees and the President an interim re-  
13          port on the status of the review and assessment of  
14          the Commission under this section, including a dis-  
15          cussion of any interim recommendations.

16                   (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months  
17          after the establishment of the Commission, the Com-  
18          mission shall submit to the congressional defense  
19          committees and the President a final report on the  
20          findings of the Commission that includes any rec-  
21          ommendations of the Commission for action by Con-  
22          gress and the Federal Government.

23           (f) COOPERATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGEN-  
24   CIES.—

1           (1) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Defense  
2           and the heads of other appropriate Federal depart-  
3           ments and agencies shall provide full and timely co-  
4           operation with the Commission in carrying out the  
5           responsibilities of the Commission under this section,  
6           including by providing the Commission with analysis,  
7           briefings, and other information necessary for the  
8           fulfillment of such responsibilities.

9           (2) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LIAISON.—The  
10          Secretary of Defense shall designate at least one of-  
11          ficer or employee of the Department of Defense to  
12          serve as a liaison officer between the Department  
13          and the Commission.

14          (3) DETAILEES AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary  
15          of Defense and the heads of other departments and  
16          agencies of the Federal Government may provide,  
17          and the Commission may accept and employ, per-  
18          sonnel detailed from the Department of Defense and  
19          such other departments and agencies, without reim-  
20          bursement.

21          (4) FACILITATION.—

22                 (A) INDEPENDENT, NONGOVERNMENT IN-  
23                 STITUTE.—Not later than 45 days after the es-  
24                 tablishment of the Commission, the Secretary of  
25                 Defense may make available to the Commission

1 the services of an independent, nongovern-  
2 mental institute described in section 501(c)(3)  
3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and ex-  
4 exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such  
5 Code, that has recognized credentials and ex-  
6 pertise in national security and military affairs  
7 in order to facilitate the discharge of the duties  
8 of the Commission under this section.

9 (B) FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND  
10 DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—On request of the  
11 Commission, the Secretary of Defense shall  
12 make available the services of a federally fund-  
13 ed research and development center that is cov-  
14 ered by a sponsoring agreement of the Depart-  
15 ment of Defense in order to enhance the efforts  
16 of the Commission in the discharge of the du-  
17 ties of the Commission under this section.

18 (5) EXPEDITION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.—  
19 The Office of Senate Security and the Office of  
20 House Security shall ensure the expedited processing  
21 of appropriate security clearances under processes  
22 developed for the clearance of legislative branch em-  
23 ployees for any personnel appointed to the Commis-  
24 sion by their respective offices of the Senate and  
25 House of Representatives and any personnel ap-

1 pointed by the Executive Director appointed under  
2 subsection (g).

3 (6) SERVICES AND INFORMATION.—

4 (A) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SERV-  
5 ICES.—The Secretary of Defense may provide  
6 to the Commission, on a nonreimbursable basis,  
7 such administrative services, funds, staff, facili-  
8 ties, and other support services as are necessary  
9 for the performance of the Commission's duties  
10 under this section.

11 (B) OTHER AGENCIES.—In addition to any  
12 support provided under paragraph (1), the  
13 heads of other Federal departments and agen-  
14 cies may provide to the Commission such serv-  
15 ices, funds, facilities, staff, and other support  
16 as the heads of such departments and agencies  
17 determine advisable and as may be authorized  
18 by law.

19 (C) USE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMA-  
20 TION.—The Commission may secure directly  
21 from any department or agency of the Federal  
22 Government such information as the Commis-  
23 sion considers necessary to carry out its duties.  
24 Upon such request of the chair of the Commis-  
25 sion, the head of such department or agency

1           shall furnish such information to the Commis-  
2           sion.

3       (g) 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 additional personnel as staff of  
18      the Commission in accordance with section 3161(d)  
19      of title 5, United States Code.

20      (h) 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          (i) AUTHORITIES.—

15          (1) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GIFTS.—The Com-  
16          mission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or do-  
17          nations of services, goods, and property from non-  
18          Federal entities for the purposes of aiding and facili-  
19          tating the work of the Commission. The authority in  
20          this subsection does not extend to gifts of money.  
21          Gifts accepted under this authority shall be docu-  
22          mented, and conflicts of interest or the appearance  
23          of conflicts of interest shall be avoided. Subject to  
24          the authority in this section, members of the Com-  
25          mission shall otherwise comply with rules set forth

1 by the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate  
2 and the Committee on Ethics of the House of Rep-  
3 resentatives governing employees of the Senate and  
4 House of Representatives.

5 (2) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Commis-  
6 sion may acquire administrative supplies and equip-  
7 ment for Commission use to the extent funds are  
8 available.

9 (3) USE OF POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commis-  
10 sion may use the United States mail in the same  
11 manner and under the same conditions as Federal  
12 departments and agencies.

13 (4) SPACE FOR USE OF COMMISSION.—Not  
14 later than 30 days after the establishment date of  
15 the Commission, the Administrator of General Serv-  
16 ices, in consultation with the Commission, shall iden-  
17 tify and make available suitable excess space within  
18 the Federal space inventory to house the operations  
19 of the Commission. If the Administrator is not able  
20 to make such suitable excess space available within  
21 such 30-day period, the Commission may lease space  
22 to the extent the funds are available.

23 (j) DEFINITION OF ROBOTICS.—In this section, the  
24 term “robotics” includes each of the following:

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

5           (2) Programmed actuated mechanisms with a  
6 degree of autonomy to perform locomotion, manipu-  
7 lation or positioning.

8           (3) Automatically controlled, reprogrammable,  
9 multipurpose manipulators, programmable in three  
10 or more axes, which can be either fixed in place or  
11 fixed to a mobile platform for use in automation ap-  
12 plications in an industrial environment.

13           (4) Machines that—

14               (A) can sense their environment;

15               (B) have the capacity to process the infor-  
16 mation they sense; and

17               (C) are organized to act directly upon their  
18 environment.

19           (5) Mechanical devices that are capable of loco-  
20 motion, navigation, or movement on the ground, and  
21 operate at a distance from one or more operators or  
22 supervisors based on commands or in response to  
23 sensor data, or through any combination thereof,  
24 and that may also be referred to as unmanned  
25 ground vehicle systems.

1           (k) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
2 18 months after the date of the submission of the final  
3 report required by subsection (e)(2).

In section 4301 of division D, relating to Operation and Maintenance, increase the amount for Office of the Secretary of Defense, Line 480, by \$2,000,000 for the establishment of a National Security Commission on Robotics.

In section 4201 of division D, relating to Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, reduce the amount for Ground Robotics, Line 143, by \$2,000,000.

