AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–70

OFFERED BY MR. PEARCE OF NEW MEXICO

At the end of subtitle A of title XVI, add the following new section:

SEC. 16. INDEPENDENT STUDY ON SPACE LAUNCH LOCATIONS.

(a) INDEPENDENT STUDY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall seek to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct a study on space launch locations, including with respect to the development and capacity of existing and new locations, and the vulnerabilities of the use of existing coastal locations and new locations. The study shall, at a minimum—

(1) identify how additional locations affect the capability of the Department of Defense to rapidly reconstitute and improve resilience for defense satellite system launches;

(2) identify the capacities and vulnerabilities of current and new space launch locations, in light of the rapid increase in using commercial space services
to support national security space missions and military requirements;

(3) identify partnerships within State government-owned and -operated spaceports that should be developed to increase launch capacities and enhance the space resiliency of the United States;

(4) provide recommendations on strategic placement for future space launch sites to mitigate vulnerabilities presented by coastal launch sites; and

(5) identify costs associated with additional locations and whether such costs should be borne by the Department of Defense, State governments, or private entities.

(b) SELECTION.—The Secretary may not enter into the contract under subsection (a) with a federally funded research and development center for which the Air Force Space Command or the Launch Centers of the National Aeronautical and Space Administration is a sponsor.

(c) SUBMISSION TO DOD.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the federally funded research and development center shall submit to the Secretary a report containing the study conducted under subsection (a).

(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
(e) **Appropriate Congressional Committees Defined.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

1. The congressional defense committees.
2. The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.