

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:

1 **SEC. 16___. INDEPENDENT STUDY ON SPACE LAUNCH LO-**
2 **CATIONS.**

3 (a) INDEPENDENT STUDY.—Not later than 30 days
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
5 of Defense shall seek to enter into a contract with a feder-
6 ally funded research and development center to conduct
7 a study on space launch locations, including with respect
8 to the development and capacity of existing and new loca-
9 tions, and the vulnerabilities of the use of existing coastal
10 locations and new locations. The study shall, at a min-
11 imum—

12 (1) identify how additional locations affect the
13 capability of the Department of Defense to rapidly
14 reconstitute and improve resilience for defense sat-
15 ellite system launches;

16 (2) identify the capacities and vulnerabilities of
17 current and new space launch locations, in light of
18 the rapid increase in using commercial space services

1 to support national security space missions and mili-
2 tary requirements;

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

7 (4) provide recommendations on strategic place-
8 ment for future space launch sites to mitigate
9 vulnerabilities presented by coastal launch sites; and

10 (5) identify costs associated with additional lo-
11 cations and whether such costs should be borne by
12 the Department of Defense, State governments, or
13 private entities.

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

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

24 (d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270
25 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
2 mittees the report under subsection (a), without change.

3 (e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
4 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
5 sional committees” means the following:

6 (1) The congressional defense committees.

7 (2) The Committee on Science, Space, and
8 Technology and the Committee on Transportation
9 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

10 (3) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and
11 Transportation of the Senate.

