

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-57
OFFERED BY MR. PERLMUTTER OF COLORADO

On page 240, after line 3, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . GUARANTEEING EQUIPMENT SAFETY FOR FIRE-**
2 **FIGHTERS ACT OF 2020.**

3 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
4 “Guaranteeing Equipment Safety for Firefighters Act of
5 2020”.

6 (b) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
7 TECHNOLOGY STUDY ON PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL
8 SUBSTANCES IN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
9 WORN BY FIREFIGHTERS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director
12 of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
13 nology shall, subject to availability of appropriations,
14 in consultation with the Director of the National In-
15 stitute for Occupational Safety and Health, complete
16 a study of the contents and composition of new and
17 unused personal protective equipment worn by fire-
18 fighters.

1 (2) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—In carrying out the
2 study required by paragraph (1), the Director of the
3 National Institute of Standards and Technology
4 shall examine—

5 (A) the identity, prevalence, and concentra-
6 tion of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
7 (commonly known as “PFAS”) in the personal
8 protective equipment worn by firefighters;

9 (B) the conditions and extent to which per-
10 and polyfluoroalkyl substances are released into
11 the environment over time from the degradation
12 of personal protective equipment from normal
13 use by firefighters; and

14 (C) the relative risk of exposure to per-
15 and polyfluoroalkyl substances faced by fire-
16 fighters from—

17 (i) their use of personal protective
18 equipment; and

19 (ii) degradation of personal protective
20 equipment from normal use by firefighters.

21 (3) REPORTS.—

22 (A) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not less fre-
23 quently than once each year for the duration of
24 the study conducted under paragraph (1), the
25 Director shall submit to Congress a report on

1 the progress of the Director in conducting such
2 study.

3 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 90
4 days after the date on which the Director com-
5 pletes the study required by paragraph (1), the
6 Director shall submit to Congress a report de-
7 scribing—

8 (i) the findings of the Director with
9 respect to the study; and

10 (ii) recommendations on what addi-
11 tional research or technical improvements
12 to personal protective equipment materials
13 or components should be pursued to avoid
14 unnecessary occupational exposure among
15 firefighters to per- and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
16 stances through personal protective equip-
17 ment.

18 (c) RESEARCH ON PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL
19 SUBSTANCES IN PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
20 WORN BY FIREFIGHTERS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
22 after the date of the submittal of the report required
23 by subsection (b)(3)(B), the Director of the National
24 Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

1 (A) issue a solicitation for research pro-
2 posals to carry out the research recommenda-
3 tions identified in the report submitted under
4 subsection (b)(3); and

5 (B) award grants to applicants that submit
6 research proposals to develop safe alternatives
7 to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in per-
8 sonal protective equipment.

9 (2) CRITERIA.—The Director shall select re-
10 search proposals to receive a grant under paragraph
11 (1) on the basis of merit, using criteria identified by
12 the Director, including the likelihood that the re-
13 search results will address the findings of the Direc-
14 tor with respect to the study conducted under sub-
15 section (b)(1).

16 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Any entity or group
17 of 2 or more entities may submit to the Director a
18 research proposal in response to the solicitation for
19 research proposals under paragraph (1), including—

20 (A) State and local agencies;

21 (B) public institutions, including public in-
22 stitutions of higher education;

23 (C) private corporations; and

24 (D) nonprofit organizations.

1 (d) AUTHORITY FOR DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL
2 INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY TO CON-
3 SULT WITH EXPERTS ON MATTERS RELATING TO PER-
4 AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.—In carrying out
5 this section, the Director of the National Institute of
6 Standards and Technology may consult with Federal
7 agencies, nongovernmental organizations, State and local
8 governments, and science and research institutions deter-
9 mined by the Director to have scientific or material inter-
10 est in reducing unnecessary occupational exposure to per-
11 and polyfluoroalkyl substances by firefighters.

12 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
14 appropriated to the Director \$2,500,000 to carry out
15 this section.

16 (2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds
17 made available to carry out this section shall supple-
18 ment and not supplant funds made available to the
19 Director for other purposes.

