AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10

OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1071. ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANS-ATLANTIC SUBMARINE FIBER OPTIC CABLE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as necessary, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of developing a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the digital security, national security, and economic opportunities and advantages associated with a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable described in subsection (a);
(2) the lifespan of submarine fiber optic cables currently connecting the United States Virgin Islands to the contiguous United States;

(3) the current security of telecommunications between the contiguous United States and the United States Virgin Islands;

(4) the current reliability and security of telecommunications infrastructure in the United States Virgin Islands;

(5) the current security of telecommunications between the United States and Africa;

(6) the potential for engagement with trusted entities in the development by the United States of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable described in subsection (a), and the associated geopolitical and economic advantages;

(7) the potential opportunities to maximize commercial opportunities and investments in United States infrastructure that are associated with a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable described in subsection (a);

(8) the value, cost, and feasibility of establishing a data center and high-security cloud services facility, with independent power generation, in the
United States Virgin Islands for military and national security communications; and

(9) any other related matters the Assistant Secretary determines are appropriate.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form without any designation relating to dissemination control, but may include a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(2) NOT TRUSTED.—The term “not trusted” means, with respect to an entity, that the entity is determined by the Assistant Secretary to pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States, or the security and safety of United States persons, based solely on one or more determination described under paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 2(c) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601(c)).

(3) TRUSTED.—The term “trusted” means, with respect to an entity, that the Assistant Sec-
1 retary has not determined that the entity is not trusted.