

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-8
OFFERED BY MS. ROSS OF NORTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following
new section:

1 SEC. 2 ____ . DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY HUBS PROGRAM.

2 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
3 hance national security and technological superiority by
4 requiring the Secretary of Defense to establish a network
5 of regional defense technology hubs to foster innovation,
6 collaboration, and rapid development of defense-related
7 technologies to attract talent from across the United
8 States.

9 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY
10 HUBS PROGRAM.—

11 (1) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of De-
13 fense shall establish a program to designate and
14 support regional hubs focused on advancing de-
15 fense technologies critical to national security.

16 (B) DESIGNATION.—The program estab-
17 lished pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be
18 known as the “Defense Technology Hubs Pro-
19 gram”.

1 (2) DESIGNATION OF DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY
2 HUBS.—

3 (A) SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS.—

4 Under the Program, the Secretary shall solicit
5 applications from eligible consortia to be des-
6 ignated as defense technology hubs under the
7 Program.

8 (B) SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS.—A
9 consortium seeking designation and support as
10 a regional hub under paragraph (1)(A) shall
11 submit to the Secretary an application therefor
12 at such time, in such manner, and containing
13 such information as the Secretary may require.

14 (C) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select
15 eligible consortia for designation and support
16 under paragraph (1)(A) from among those sub-
17 mitting applications pursuant to subparagraph
18 (B) of this paragraph using the following cri-
19 teria:

20 (i) Demonstrated capability in de-
21 fense-relevant technology areas.

22 (ii) Evidence of regional collaboration
23 and stakeholder commitment.

24 (iii) Presence of anchor Federal de-
25 fense institutions or mission-critical instal-

1 lations of the Department that support or
2 utilize emerging defense technologies, par-
3 ticularly in areas such as geospatial intel-
4 ligence, data fusion, and artificial intel-
5 ligence.

6 (iv) Existence of regional innovation
7 ecosystems with demonstrated success in
8 leveraging Federal, State, and private sec-
9 tor collaboration, such as technology inno-
10 vation consortia, academic research clus-
11 ters, and specialized defense accelerators.

12 (v) Potential to address Department-
13 identified strategic priorities.

14 (vi) Economic and workforce develop-
15 ment impact.

16 (D) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In se-
17 lecting eligible consortia for designation and
18 support under the Program, the Secretary shall
19 ensure that defense technology hubs are distrib-
20 uted across diverse geographic regions of the
21 United States, with a goal of designating at
22 least 10 defense technology hubs before the
23 date that is 3 years after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act. In considering geographic dis-
25 tribution, the Secretary may give preference to

1 regions with demonstrated strategic relevance
2 to national security missions, including those
3 with newly constructed or expanded Depart-
4 ment facilities and intelligence community in-
5 vestments.

6 (3) OBJECTIVES OF DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY
7 HUBS.—The objectives of a defense technology hub
8 under the Program are as follows:

9 (A) To accelerate the research, develop-
10 ment, prototyping, and transition to operational
11 use of emerging technologies with military ap-
12 plications, including artificial intelligence, quan-
13 tum technologies, hypersonics, biotechnology,
14 and advanced manufacturing.

15 (B) To foster partnerships among compo-
16 nents of the Department of Defense, private in-
17 dustry, academic institutions, and State and
18 local governments.

19 (C) To address regional defense technology
20 needs while leveraging local expertise, infra-
21 structure, and economic strengths, including
22 proximity to Federal mission partners such as
23 combat support agencies and participation in
24 existing innovation consortia or university-in-
25 dustry alliances.

1 (D) To promote workforce development
2 and training programs to build a skilled pipe-
3 line for defense innovation including partner-
4 ships with research universities, community col-
5 leges, and vocational programs.

6 (E) To enhance the resilience and security
7 of the defense industrial base.

8 (4) GRANTS.—

9 (A) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Under the
10 Program, the Secretary may award grants to
11 defense technology hubs.

12 (B) USE OF FUNDS.—A defense technology
13 hub receiving a grant under subparagraph (A)
14 shall use the amounts of the grant for the fol-
15 lowing purposes:

16 (i) As seed funding for establishment
17 of the defense technology hub.

18 (ii) For research, prototyping, and
19 technology transition projects consistent
20 with the objectives set forth in paragraph
21 (3).

22 (iii) Administrative and evaluation ex-
23 penses of the defense technology hub relat-
24 ing activities under the Program.

1 (5) SECURITY AND COMPLIANCE REQUIRE-
2 MENTS.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under the Program,
4 each defense technology hub shall do the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (i) Implement cybersecurity measures
7 consistent with Department cybersecurity
8 standards.

9 (ii) Ensure all research and tech-
10 nology transfers comply with the Inter-
11 national Traffic in Arms Regulations
12 (ITAR) and the Export Administration
13 Regulations (EAR).

14 (iii) Prevent participation by foreign
15 entities of concern, as identified by the
16 Secretary in coordination with the heads of
17 the elements of the intelligence community
18 (as defined in section 3 of the National Se-
19 curity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) or
20 identified in the Entity List maintained by
21 the Bureau of Industry and Security of the
22 Department of Commerce and set forth in
23 Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of title 15,
24 Code of Federal Regulations, and con-
25 sistent with existing Federal designations.

1 (iv) Establish mechanisms to prevent
2 unauthorized access to sensitive defense-re-
3 lated research and technology.

4 (B) MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT.—
5 The Secretary shall, in coordination with the
6 Director of the Defense Counterintelligence and
7 Security Agency, establish procedures to mon-
8 itor and enforce compliance with the require-
9 ments set forth in subparagraph (A).

10 (6) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT.—

11 (A) GUIDELINES REQUIRED.—The Sec-
12 retary shall develop guidelines under the Pro-
13 gram for intellectual property ownership and li-
14 censing within the defense technology hubs, bal-
15 ancing national security needs with commercial
16 incentives for private sector participation.

17 (B) RETENTION OF RIGHTS.—The guide-
18 lines developed pursuant to subparagraph (A)
19 shall include provisions for the Department to
20 retain necessary rights for defense applications
21 while allowing members of consortia that are
22 defense technology hubs to pursue commercial
23 opportunities as may be appropriate.

24 (7) FUNDING.—

1 (A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
2 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
3 to the Department of Defense to carry out the
4 Program \$375,000,000 for the period of fiscal
5 years 2026 through 2030.

6 (B) AVAILABILITY.—Of the amounts ap-
7 propriated pursuant to the authorization in sub-
8 paragraph (A), \$75,000,000 shall be available
9 to the Secretary to award grants under para-
10 graph (4).

11 (C) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share
12 of support provided to a defense technology hub
13 under the Program in a fiscal year may not ex-
14 ceed 50 percent of the total cost of the oper-
15 ations and activities of the defense technology
16 hub under the Program in that fiscal year.

17 (8) ADMINISTRATION.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ad-
19 minister the Program through the Under Sec-
20 retary of Defense for Research and Engineer-
21 ing, in coordination with the Director of the
22 Defense Innovation Unit and the heads of such
23 other elements of the Department as the Sec-
24 retary considers appropriate.

1 (B) WAIVER OF ACQUISITION REGULA-
2 TIONS.—For any project of a defense tech-
3 nology hub under the Program that the Sec-
4 retary determines has a total cost of less than
5 \$10,000,000, the Secretary may waive applica-
6 ble acquisition regulations to expedite develop-
7 ment and prototyping, consistent with similar
8 authorities of the Secretary that were in effect
9 on the day before the date of the enactment of
10 this Act.

11 (C) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—Each
12 defense technology hub shall, not less frequently
13 than once each year, submit to the Secretary an
14 annual progress report detailing technological
15 advancements, partnerships, and economic out-
16 comes.

17 (c) COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PROGRAM.—The
18 Secretary of Defense shall ensure the Program com-
19 plements, and does not duplicate, existing efforts such as
20 efforts of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
21 (DARPA), the Manufacturing USA Institutes, the Re-
22 gional Technology and Innovation Hubs of the Economic
23 Development Administration (EDA), the Defense Innova-
24 tion Unit (DIU), and the Regional Innovation Engines of
25 the National Science Foundation. The Secretary shall, as

1 the Secretary determines appropriate, align defense tech-
2 nology hub activities with existing defense and intelligence
3 infrastructure to maximize the use of established mission
4 platforms and reduce redundant investments, particularly
5 in areas where new Federal campuses are designed to
6 serve as long-term anchors for defense innovation eco-
7 systems.

8 (d) EVALUATION AND REPORTING.—

9 (1) INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS.—The Sec-
10 retary of Defense shall seek to enter into a contract
11 with an independent entity to evaluate the effective-
12 ness of the Program annually for the first 5 years
13 of the Program, and biennially thereafter, assessing
14 technology outputs, national security impacts, and
15 return on investment.

16 (2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently
17 than once each year, the Secretary shall submit to
18 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and
19 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
20 Representatives an annual report detailing Program
21 activities, defense technology hub performance, and
22 recommendations for improvement to the Program.

23 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section
24 shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) The term “anchor Federal defense institu-
3 tion” means a defense manufacturing facility, an in-
4 stitution of higher education that engages the De-
5 partment on research, development, testing, and
6 evaluation, or a military installation.

7 (2) The term “defense technology hub” means
8 a regional hub designated and supported under the
9 Program.

10 (3) The term “eligible consortium” means a
11 consortium composed of universities, defense con-
12 tractors, small businesses, nonprofit organizations,
13 and State or local governments.

14 (4) The term “emerging technologies” means
15 scientific and engineering advancements with poten-
16 tial military applications as identified by the Sec-
17 retary of Defense.

18 (5) The term “Program” means the Defense
19 Technology Hubs Program established under sub-
20 section (b)(1).

