

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

33

OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA

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

1 **SEC. 5___ . SEX-NEUTRAL FITNESS STANDARDS.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than one year after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
4 Defense shall establish physical fitness and occupational
5 performance standards that are normalized for age and
6 sex neutral for members of the covered Armed Forces
7 serving in ground combat roles.

8 (b) PROHIBITION ON ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON
9 SEX.—The standards required under subsection (a) may
10 not include any distinction or alternative standard based
11 on the sex of the member.

12 (c) CERTIFICATION OF IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later
13 than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
14 Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress—

15 (1) a certification that the Secretaries of the
16 military departments have implemented the stand-
17 ards required under subsection (a); or

1 (2) if the Secretary is unable to submit such a
2 certification, an explanation of which covered Armed
3 Forces have not implemented the standards as re-
4 quired by this section, the reasons such covered
5 Armed Forces have not implemented such standards,
6 and an estimated date by which such standards will
7 be implemented by such covered Armed Forces.

8 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
10 after for five years, the Secretary of Defense shall submit
11 to the congressional defense committees a report on the
12 implementation of this section, including—

13 (1) the status of each covered Armed Force in
14 complying with the requirements of this section;

15 (2) the impact of the implementation of this
16 section on readiness;

17 (3) the impact of the implementation of this
18 section on retention and attrition rates for members
19 of the covered Armed Forces; and

20 (4) an assessment of operational readiness.

21 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) COVERED ARMED FORCE.—The term “cov-
23 ered Armed Force” means the Army, Navy, Air
24 Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

1 (2) GROUND COMBAT ROLE.—The term
2 “ground combat role” means a military occupational
3 specialty, rating, or designation the primary mission
4 of which includes close engagement of enemy forces
5 in ground combat operations, as determined by the
6 Secretary of the military department concerned.

