

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 119–33

OFFERED BY MR. SELF OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 17 ____ . ENHANCEMENT OF DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT**
2 **ON INTERNATIONAL BIODEFENSE, BIOSECURITY, AND BIOTECHNOLOGY MATTERS.**
3

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall advance United States foreign policy goals to improve cooperation in the field of international biodefense, biosecurity, and biotechnology matters with United States allies and partners, including by carrying out the activities described in this section.

10 (b) **POLICY DEVELOPMENT.**—The Secretary of State, acting through the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security if the Secretary so delegates, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Political Affairs and the Permanent Representative of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), shall pursue enhanced biodefense cooperation within NATO, including by—

18 (1) advocating for the prioritization of policy
19 development within NATO relating to biodefense, in-

1 cluding in the areas of biotechnology, biosurveillance,
2 and countermeasures in the field of biological
3 threats;

4 (2) identifying and evaluating opportunities to
5 strengthen NATO planning, policies, and activities
6 relating to biodefense and biotechnology;

7 (3) pursuing potential revisions or amendments
8 to the NATO Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and
9 Nuclear Defence Policy to further enhance bio-
10 defense efforts in NATO;

11 (4) coordinating with NATO member states to
12 prioritize and implement measures described in the
13 NATO Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nu-
14 clear Defence Policy;

15 (5) strengthening NATO interoperability and
16 allied forces capabilities in resilience, detection, at-
17 tribution, emergency response, and recovery in the
18 event of a weaponized biological attack;

19 (6) evaluating opportunities for expanded
20 NATO capabilities to research, develop, and deploy
21 biotechnology for international security purposes;
22 and

23 (7) promoting adherence by NATO member
24 states to the highest standards of safety and secu-
25 rity in biological research.

1 (c) COOPERATION WITH UNITED STATES ALLIES
2 AND PARTNERS.—The Secretary of State, acting through
3 the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International
4 Security if the Secretary so delegates, in coordination with
5 the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, shall pursue
6 international biotechnology, biosecurity, and biodefense
7 cooperation with United States allies and partners, includ-
8 ing—

9 (1) exploring potential areas of cooperation with
10 countries that are major non-NATO allies in bio-
11 technology, biosecurity, and biodefense matters;

12 (2) coordinating with allied and partner coun-
13 tries, including NATO countries, on formulation of
14 export control policies in the field of biotechnology,
15 including items that may be identified as dual-use
16 items that would pose a substantial risk to national
17 security if used for military end-uses, such as items
18 that could enable the development of bioweapons;

19 (3) promoting adherence by United States allies
20 and partners to the highest standards of safety and
21 security in biological research; and

22 (4) collaborating on efforts to enforce the Bio-
23 logical Weapons Convention.

24 (d) STRATEGIES.—

1 (1) NATO BIODEFENSE STRATEGY.—The Sec-
2 retary of State, acting through the Under Secretary
3 for Arms Control and International Security if the
4 Secretary so delegates, in coordination with the
5 Under Secretary for Political Affairs, shall develop a
6 strategy, to be known as the “NATO Biodefense
7 Strategy”, which shall include—

8 (A) an assessment of current cooperation
9 between the United States and NATO member
10 states in biotechnology, biosurveillance, biologi-
11 cal threat countermeasures, and other bio-
12 defense capabilities;

13 (B) an identification of strategic planning
14 and deployment gaps in NATO relating to bio-
15 technology and biodefense;

16 (C) recommendations to address gaps iden-
17 tified under subparagraph (B), including
18 through coordination with NATO member
19 states, capability development, and coordination
20 mechanisms; and

21 (D) an assessment of current Department
22 of State cooperation with other United States
23 Government agencies in biodefense, bio-
24 technology, biosecurity, biosurveillance, and bio-
25 logical threat countermeasures.

1 (2) INTERNATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY, BIO-
2 SECURITY, AND BIODEFENSE COOPERATION STRAT-
3 EGY.—The Secretary of State, acting through the
4 Under Secretary for Arms Control and International
5 Security if the Secretary so delegates, in coordina-
6 tion with the Under Secretary for Political Affairs,
7 shall develop a strategy, to be known as the “Inter-
8 national Biotechnology, Biosecurity, and Biodefense
9 Cooperation Strategy”, which shall include—

10 (A) proposals for commitments or agree-
11 ments under which the United States and
12 United States allies and partners, including
13 countries that are major non-NATO allies, may
14 expand cooperation on international security
15 matters relating to biotechnology, biosecurity,
16 and biodefense;

17 (B) an assessment of the feasibility and ef-
18 fectiveness of coordinating export control ef-
19 forts, in addition to existing export control re-
20 gimes such as the Wassenaar Arrangement and
21 the Australia Group, related to biotechnology
22 items that may pose national security risks if
23 used for military end uses; and

24 (C) an overview of nonproliferation, anti-
25 terrorism, demining, and related (NADR) pro-

1 grams and funds for the purposes of enhancing
2 capabilities and capacities to address inter-
3 national biosecurity threats and recommenda-
4 tions for the use of Department of State pro-
5 grams and funds, including NADR programs
6 and funds, to expand cooperation outlined in
7 subparagraph (A) and increase the effectiveness
8 of export control efforts identified in subpara-
9 graph (B).

10 (3) LIMITATION.—The strategies developed
11 under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be limited to ad-
12 dressing threats posed by biological agents and tox-
13 ins as such terms are defined in section 178 of title
14 18, United States Code.

15 (e) REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
18 retary of State, acting through the Under Secretary
19 for Arms Control and International Security if the
20 Secretary so delegates, shall submit to the appro-
21 priate congressional committees a report that con-
22 tains the strategies required by subsection (d).

23 (2) FORM.—The report required by this sub-
24 section shall be submitted in unclassified form but

1 may include a classified annex if submitted sepa-
2 rately from the unclassified portion.

3 (f) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 90
4 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under
5 Secretary for Arms Control and International Security
6 shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional
7 committees in response to significant developments relat-
8 ing to—

9 (1) the contents of the report required by sub-
10 section (e); and

11 (2) other material developments in bio-
12 technology and biosecurity globally that may affect
13 United States national security interests.

14 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

15 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
16 mittees” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
18 the House of the Representatives; and

19 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
20 the Senate;

21 (2) the term “biodefense” means actions to
22 counter biological threats, reduce risks, and prepare
23 for, respond to, and recover from biological inci-
24 dents;

1 (3) the term “biological threat” means entities
2 involved with, or a situation involving, a biological
3 hazard that can potentially cause a biological inci-
4 dent;

5 (4) the term “biosecurity” means policies, prac-
6 tices, and controls that reduce the risk of loss, theft,
7 misuse, diversion of, or intentional unauthorized re-
8 lease of biological materials;

9 (5) the term “biosurveillance” means the proc-
10 ess of gathering, integrating, interpreting, and com-
11 municating essential information and indications re-
12 lated to all-hazard threats or disease activity affect-
13 ing human, animal, plant, and environmental health
14 to achieve early detection and provide early warning
15 and contribute to overall situational awareness of
16 the health aspects of a biological incident to support
17 and enhance decision-making at all levels;

18 (6) the term “biotechnology” means the use of
19 biological processes, organisms, or systems for man-
20 ufacturing, research, or medical purposes, including
21 genetic engineering, synthetic biology, and
22 bioinformatics; and

23 (7) the term “countries that are major non-
24 NATO allies” means countries designated pursuant

1 to section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
2 (22 U.S.C. 2321k).

