

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 119–33**

**OFFERED BY MR. SHREVE OF INDIANA**

In title XVIII, subtitle A, add at the end the following new section:

1 **SEC. 18\_\_ . FEASIBILITY STUDY ON COMBATANT COM-**  
2 **MAND CRITICAL MINERALS MANAGEMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall  
4 conduct a study assessing the feasibility of enabling com-  
5 manders of unified combatant commands to independently  
6 identify, acquire, and dispose of critical minerals to en-  
7 hance operational resilience and decentralized manage-  
8 ment of resources.

9 (b) CONTENTS.—The study required by subsection  
10 (a) shall include the following: —

11 (1) An assessment of the feasibility and effec-  
12 tiveness of providing commanders of unified combat-  
13 ant commands authority to independently identify,  
14 acquire, and dispose of critical minerals through  
15 contracts, cooperative agreements, or other mecha-  
16 nisms to address vulnerabilities in the supply chains  
17 for critical minerals.

18 (2) An assessment of how commanders of uni-  
19 fied combatant commands could use the authority

1 described in paragraph (1) to develop and implement  
2 plans for the decentralized management of resources  
3 for the areas of responsibility of the unified combat-  
4 ant command of the commander, including advan-  
5 tages, challenges, and scalability across the Depart-  
6 ment of Defense of such decentralized management  
7 of resources.

8 (3) An estimate of the costs associated with  
9 providing the authority described in paragraph (1)  
10 and potential sources of funds to pay for such costs,  
11 including amounts authorized for the Department of  
12 Defense or the Combatant Commander Initiative  
13 Fund under section 166a of title 10, United States  
14 Code, and amounts from the disposal of critical min-  
15 erals under such authority.

16 (4) An identification of the risks to the security  
17 of the supply chain of critical minerals, operational  
18 readiness, and partnerships between the United  
19 States and other countries resulting from providing  
20 commanders of unified combatant commands the au-  
21 thority described in paragraph (1), and strategies to  
22 mitigate such risks.

23 (5) Specific recommendations on whether to  
24 provide the authority described in paragraph (1)  
25 under a pilot program or a permanent grant of au-

1           thority and any necessary changes to law or regula-  
2           tion required to provide such authority in the man-  
3           ner recommended.

4           (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
6 shall submit to the congressional defense committees and  
7 the Comptroller General of the United States a report on  
8 the findings of the study required by subsection (a).

9           (d) EVALUATION.—Not later than 180 days after the  
10 date on which the Secretary of Defense submits the report  
11 required under subsection (c) to the Comptroller General  
12 of the United States, the Comptroller General shall submit  
13 to the congressional defense committees a report assessing  
14 the findings and recommendations in the report submitted  
15 to the Comptroller General under such subsection, includ-  
16 ing an evaluation of the benefits, risks, and costs of pro-  
17 viding commanders of unified combatant commands au-  
18 thority to independently identify, acquire, and dispose of  
19 critical minerals.

20           (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21                 (1) The term “critical mineral” means a min-  
22           eral designated by the Secretary of Defense as a  
23           critical mineral.

1           (2) The term “unified combatant command”  
2           has the meaning given such term in section 161 of  
3           title 10, United States Code.

