AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10

OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

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

SEC. 2. NATIONAL DIRECTED ENERGY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.

(a) Establishment.—Not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a National Directed Energy Center of Excellence.

(b) Duties.—The Center established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) support strong university research programs in high-energy lasers, high-power microwaves, and related fields in atmospherics, targeting and tracking, lethality science and technology, systems engineering, materials, and interaction science;

(2) align directed energy research programs with relevant programs in Armed Forces laboratories and the Service Academies, including the Naval Research Laboratory, the Army Research Laboratory, the Naval Surface Warfare Center, the Naval Information Warfare Center, the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval Academy, the Air...
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Force Institute of Technology, and the Naval Postgraduate School;

(3) construct a competitive program for directed energy research in United States universities based on topics originating from the directed energy community, including the Joint Directed Energy Transition Office, Technology and Alternatives Working Groups, laboratories of the Armed Forces, the Service Academies, and other organizations and elements of the Department of Defense;

(4) establish and administer a national workforce development program in directed energy that—

(A) provides hands-on training for relevant personnel at all levels;

(B) is based on advanced digital platforms;

(C) is inter-institutional; and

(D) incorporates directed energy courses promoted by the Directed Energy Professional Society and new courses developed by the Center to impart skills and expertise that are in demand in the directed energy industry, in laboratories of the Armed Forces, and in academic institutions; and

(5) support specific interactive research and development programs for small businesses, similar to
the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs of the Department of Defense, to encourage technology transfer between universities and industries in the field of directed energy.