AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-23

OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title IX, insert the following:

SEC. 9. RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL TEST AND EVALUATION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

(a) BRIEFING ON PLANS TO ADDRESS DEVELOPMENTAL TEST AND EVALUATION RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on a strategy to ensure that there is sufficient expertise, oversight, and policy direction on developmental test and evaluation within the Office of the Secretary of Defense after the completion of the reorganization of such Office required under section 901 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2339).
(2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required by paragraph (1) shall address the following:

(A) The structure of the roles and responsibilities of the senior Department of Defense official responsible for developmental test and evaluation.

(B) The location of the senior Department of Defense official responsible for developmental test and evaluation within the organizational structure of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

(C) An estimate of personnel and other resources that should be made available to the senior Department of Defense official responsible for developmental test and evaluation to ensure that such official can provide independent expertise, oversight, and policy direction and guidance Department of Defense-wide.

(D) Methods to ensure that the senior Department of Defense official responsible for developmental test and evaluation will be empowered to facilitate Department of Defense-wide efficiencies by helping programs to optimize test designs.
(E) Methods to ensure that an advocate for test and evaluation workforce will continue to exist within the acquisition workforce.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) developmental testing is critical to reducing acquisition program risk by providing valuable information to support sound decision making;

(2) major defense acquisition programs often do not conduct enough developmental testing, so too many problems are first identified during operational testing, when they are expensive and time-consuming to fix; and

(3) in order to ensure that effective developmental testing is conducted on major defense acquisition programs, the Secretary should—

(A) carefully consider where the senior Department of Defense official responsible for developmental test and evaluation is located within the organizational structure of the Office of the Secretary of Defense; and

(B) ensure that such official has sufficient authority and resources to provide oversight
and policy direction on developmental test and evaluation Department of Defense-wide.