

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

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OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle E of title II, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 2___. BRIEFING AND REPORT ON USE OF DISTRIB-**
2 **UTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY FOR DEFENSE**
3 **PURPOSES.**

4 (a) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, Under Sec-
7 retary of Defense for Research and Engineering
8 shall provide to the congressional defense commit-
9 tees a briefing on the potential use of distributed
10 ledger technology for defense purposes.

11 (2) ELEMENTS.—This briefing under para-
12 graph (1) shall include—

13 (A) an explanation of how distributed ledg-
14 er technology may be used by the Department
15 of Defense to—

16 (i) improve cybersecurity, beginning at
17 the hardware level, of vulnerable assets
18 such as energy, water, and transport grids

1 through distributed versus centralized com-
2 puting;

3 (ii) reduce single points of failure in
4 emergency and catastrophe decision-mak-
5 ing by subjecting decisions to consensus
6 validation through distributed ledger tech-
7 nologies;

8 (iii) improve the efficiency of defense
9 logistics and supply chain operations;

10 (iv) enhance the transparency of pro-
11 curement auditing; and

12 (v) allow innovations to be adapted by
13 the private sector for ancillary uses; and

14 (B) any other information that the Under
15 Secretary of Defense for Research and Engi-
16 neering determines to be appropriate.

17 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
20 Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engi-
21 neering shall submit to the congressional defense
22 committees a report on the research, development,
23 and use of distributed ledger technologies for de-
24 fense purposes.

1 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph
2 (1) shall include—

3 (A) a summary of the key points from the
4 briefing provided under subsection (a);

5 (B) an analysis of activities that other
6 countries, including the People’s Republic of
7 China and the Russian Federation, are carrying
8 out with respect to the research and develop-
9 ment of distributed ledger technologies, includ-
10 ing estimates of the types and amounts of re-
11 sources directed by such countries to such ac-
12 tivities;

13 (C) recommendations identifying additional
14 research and development activities relating to
15 distributed ledger technologies that should be
16 carried out by the Department of Defense and
17 cost estimates for such activities; and

18 (D) an analysis of the potential benefits
19 of—

20 (i) consolidating research on distrib-
21 uted ledger technologies within the Depart-
22 ment; and

23 (ii) developing within the Department
24 a single hub or center of excellence for re-

1 search on distributed ledger technologies;
2 and
3 (E) any other information that the Under
4 Secretary of Defense for Research and Engi-
5 neering determines to be appropriate.

