AMENDMENT

TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–8

OFFERED BY MS. STEVENS OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle A of title V of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5119. RESILIENT TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The Secretary of Transportation shall award grants to establish 5 Centers of Excellence to advance research and development that improves the resilience of regions of the United States to natural disasters, extreme weather, and the effects of climate change on surface transportation infrastructure.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure the Centers promote resilient surface transportation infrastructure through—

(1) supporting the research and development of design, operations, and maintenance standards relevant to surface transportation that consider existing and anticipated impacts of natural disasters, extreme weather, and climate change;

(2) research, development, and technology transfer of resilient materials and technologies into
existing and future surface transportation infrastructure; and

(3) development and dissemination of tools, techniques, and information that informs federal, state, and local government decision-making, policies, planning, and investments.

(c) CENTER COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) coordinate activities of all five Centers to prevent duplication; and

(B) promote dissemination of research among awardees.

(2) PROGRAM EVALUATION AND OVERSIGHT.—

The Secretary may expend not more than 1 and a half percent of the amounts made available to the Secretary to carry out this section for any coordination, evaluation, and oversight activities, of the Secretary under this Section.

(d) ELIGIBILITY.—An institution of higher education, as defined by section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), or a consortium of institutions of higher education shall be eligible to receive grants under this program.

(e) COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS.—
(1) APPLICATIONS.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application that is in such form and contains such information as the Secretary may require.

(2) RESTRICTION.—A recipient may only receive 1 grant per fiscal year under this section.

(3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In awarding a grant under this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) give preference to the applicant’s past performance in the activities under subsection (b);

(B) consider the extent to which an applicant’s proposal would involve participation by local, regional, and national stakeholders; and

(C) consider the local, regional, and national impacts of the applicant’s proposal.

(4) LOCATION.—In awarding a grant under this section, the Secretary shall select centers located in diverse geographic regions that represent a variety of experiences with natural disasters, extreme weather patterns, and climate change impacts.

(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—As a condition of receiving an award under this section, an award recipient shall match
50 percent of the amounts made available under the award.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as necessary for grants under this section.

(2) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to the Secretary to carry out this section shall remain available for obligation by the Secretary for a period of 3 years after the last day of the fiscal year for which the amounts are authorized.

(h) REPORTING.—In general, on a biannual basis, the Secretary shall—

(1) review and evaluate the programs carried out under this section by grant recipients; and

(2) submit to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Environment and Public Works and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing that review and evaluation.

(i) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Any survey, questionnaire, or interview that the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out reporting requirements relating
to any program assessment or evaluation activity under this section, including customer satisfaction assessments, shall not be subject to chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code.