

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10
OFFERED BY MS. STRICKLAND OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle C of title III, add the following:

1 **SEC. 3___ . COMPENSATION FUND FOR MILITARY FIRE-**
2 **FIGHTERS.**

3 (a) PROGRAM AND FUND ESTABLISHED.—Not later
4 than two years after the date of enactment of this Act,
5 the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Depart-
6 ment of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a program and
7 fund to be known as the “Military Firefighters Compensa-
8 tion Fund”.

9 (b) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The purpose of the
10 compensation program is to provide for timely, uniform,
11 and adequate compensation to current and former military
12 firefighters and, where applicable, survivors of such em-
13 ployees, suffering from illnesses incurred by such employ-
14 ees in the performance of duty for the Department of De-
15 fense and certain of its contractors and subcontractors due
16 to exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or
17 PFAS.

1 (c) PFAS EXPOSURE.—Current and former military
2 firefighters shall, in the absence of substantial evidence
3 to the contrary, be determined to have been exposed to
4 PFAS in the performance of duty for the purposes of the
5 compensation program if such firefighter was employed at
6 a military installation, facility of the National Guard, of
7 formerly used defense site during a period when PFAS
8 would have been present at such facility.

9 (d) COMPENSATION PROVIDED.—A current or former
10 military firefighter, or the survivor of such firefighter if
11 the firefighter is deceased, shall receive compensation for
12 the disability or death of that employee from that employ-
13 ee’s occupational illness.

14 (e) PAYMENTS IN THE CASE OF DECEASED PER-
15 SONS.—

16 (1) CLAIM FILED.—In the case of a military
17 firefighter who is deceased at the time of payment
18 of compensation under this section, whether or not
19 the death is the result of the firefighter’s occupa-
20 tional illness, such payment may be made only as
21 follows:

22 (A) If the military firefighter is survived
23 by a spouse who is living at the time of pay-
24 ment, such payment shall be made to such sur-
25 viving spouse.

1 (B) If there is no surviving spouse de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A), such payment
3 shall be made in equal shares to all children of
4 the military firefighter who are living at the
5 time of payment.

6 (C) If there is no surviving spouse de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (A) and if there are no
8 children described in subparagraph (B), such
9 payment shall be made in equal shares to the
10 parents of the military firefighter who are living
11 at the time of payment.

12 (D) If there is no surviving spouse de-
13 scribed in subparagraph (A), and if there are
14 no children described in subparagraph (B) or
15 parents described in subparagraph (C), such
16 payment shall be made in equal shares to all
17 grandchildren of the military firefighter who are
18 living at the time of payment.

19 (E) If there is no surviving spouse de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (A), and if there are
21 no children described in subparagraph (B), par-
22 ents described in subparagraph (C), or grand-
23 children described in subparagraph (D), then
24 such payment shall be made in equal shares to

1 the grandparents of the military firefighter who
2 are living at the time of payment.

3 (F) Notwithstanding the other provisions
4 of this paragraph, if there is—

5 (i) a surviving spouse described in
6 subparagraph (A); and

7 (ii) at least one child of the military
8 firefighter who is living and a minor at the
9 time of payment and who is not a recog-
10 nized natural child or adopted child of
11 such surviving spouse, then half of such
12 payment shall be made to such surviving
13 spouse, and the other half of such payment
14 shall be made in equal shares to each child
15 of the military firefighter who is living and
16 a minor at the time of payment.

17 (2) BEFORE FILING OF CLAIM.—If a current or
18 former military firefighter eligible for payment dies
19 before filing a claim under this section, a survivor of
20 that firefighter who may receive payment under
21 paragraph (1) may file a claim for such payment.

22 (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

23 (A) The term “child” includes a recognized
24 natural child, a stepchild who lived with an in-

1 dividual in a regular parent-child relationship,
2 or an adopted child.

3 (B) The term “grandchild” means the
4 child of a child of an individual.

5 (C) The term “grandparent” means the
6 parent of a parent of an individual.

7 (D) The term “parent” includes fathers
8 and mothers through adoption.

9 (E) The term “spouse” means the wife or
10 husband of a deceased individual who was mar-
11 ried to such individual for at least one year im-
12 mediately before such death.

13 (f) **MEDICAL BENEFITS PROVIDED.**—The Secretary
14 shall furnish, to an individual receiving medical benefits
15 under this section for an illness, the services, appliances,
16 and supplies prescribed or recommended by a qualified
17 physician for that illness.

18 (g) **TRANSPORTATION AND EXPENSES.**—The indi-
19 vidual may be furnished necessary and reasonable trans-
20 portation and expenses incident to the securing of such
21 services, appliances, and supplies.

22 (h) **COMMENCEMENT OF BENEFITS.**—An individual
23 receiving benefits under this section shall be furnished
24 those benefits as of the date on which that individual sub-

1 mitted the claim for those benefits in accordance with this
2 section.

3 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) The term “military installation” has the
5 meaning given such term in section 2801(c)(4) of
6 title 10, United States Code.

7 (2) The term “PFAS” means perfluoroalkyl
8 and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

9 (2) The term “perfluoroalkyl substance” means
10 a man-made chemical of which all the carbon atoms
11 are fully fluorinated carbon atoms.

12 (3) The term “polyfluoroalkyl substance”
13 means a man-made chemical with at least one fully
14 fluorinated carbon atom and at least one
15 nonfluorinated carbon atom.

16 (j) AUTHORIZATION FOR COMPENSATION FUND.—
17 There is hereby authorized such sums as may be necessary
18 to carry out this section.

