

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Page 108, after line 17, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 528. PRELIMINARY MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 31 of title 10, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing new section:

5 **“§ 520d. Preliminary mental health assessments**

6 “(a) PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH ASSESS-
7 MENT.—Before any individual enlists in an armed force
8 or is commissioned as an officer in an armed force, the
9 Secretary concerned shall provide the individual with a
10 mental health assessment. The Secretary shall use such
11 results as a baseline for any subsequent mental health ex-
12 aminations, including such examinations provided under
13 sections 1074f and 1074m of this title.

14 “(b) USE OF ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may not
15 consider the results of a mental health assessment con-
16 ducted under subsection (a) in determining the assign-
17 ment or promotion of a member of the Armed Forces.

18 “(c) APPLICATION OF PRIVACY LAWS.—With respect
19 to applicable laws and regulations relating to the privacy

1 of information, the Secretary shall treat a mental health
2 assessment conducted under subsection (a) in the same
3 manner as the medical records of a member of the armed
4 forces.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
6 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
7 after the item relating to section 520c the following new
8 item:

“520d. Preliminary mental health assessments.”.

9 (c) REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Na-
12 tional Institute of Mental Health of the National In-
13 stitutes of Health shall submit to Congress and the
14 Secretary of Defense a report on preliminary mental
15 health assessments of members of the Armed
16 Forces.

17 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under
18 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

19 (A) Recommendations with respect to es-
20 tablishing a preliminary mental health assess-
21 ment of members of the Armed Forces to bring
22 mental health screenings to parity with physical
23 screenings of members.

24 (B) Recommendations with respect to the
25 composition of the mental health assessment,

1 best practices, and how to track assessment
2 changes relating to traumatic brain injuries,
3 post-traumatic stress disorder, and other condi-
4 tions.

5 (3) COORDINATION.—The National Institute of
6 Mental Health shall carry out paragraph (1) in co-
7 ordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
8 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention, the surgeons general of the military de-
10 partments, and other relevant experts.

