

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

117-54

OFFERED BY MR. TORRES OF NEW YORK

At the appropriate place in division E, insert:

1 **SECTION ____ . UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION ON-**
2 **SITE INVESTIGATIONS OF MAJOR FIRES.**

3 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
4 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 38. INVESTIGATION AUTHORITIES.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any major fire,
8 the Administrator may send incident investigators, which
9 may include safety specialists, fire protection engineers,
10 codes and standards experts, researchers, and fire training
11 specialists, to the site of the fire to conduct an investiga-
12 tion as described in subsection (b).

13 “(b) INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—A fire investiga-
14 tion conducted under this section—

15 “(1) shall be conducted in coordination and co-
16 operation with appropriate Federal, State, and local
17 authorities, including Federal agencies that are au-
18 thorized to investigate a major fire or an incident of
19 which the major fire is a part; and

1 “(2) shall examine the determined cause and
2 origin of the fire and assess broader systematic mat-
3 ters to include use of codes and standards, demo-
4 graphics, structural characteristics, smoke and fire
5 dynamics (movement) during the event, and costs of
6 associated injuries and deaths.

7 “(c) REPORT.—Upon concluding any fire investiga-
8 tion under this section, the Administrator shall issue a
9 public report to local, State, and Federal authorities on
10 the findings of such investigation, or collaborate with an-
11 other investigating Federal agency on that agency’s re-
12 port, including recommendations on—

13 “(1) any other buildings with similar character-
14 istics that may bear similar fire risks;

15 “(2) improving tactical response to similar fires;

16 “(3) improving civilian safety practices;

17 “(4) assessing the costs and benefits to the
18 community of adding fire safety features; and

19 “(5) how to mitigate the causes of such fire.

20 “(d) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY.—In addition to
21 investigations conducted pursuant to subsection (a), the
22 Administrator may send fire investigators to conduct in-
23 vestigations at the site of any fire with unusual or remark-
24 able context that results in losses less severe than those
25 occurring as a result of a major fire, in coordination with

1 appropriate Federal, State, and local authorities, including
2 Federal agencies that are authorized to investigate a
3 major fire or an incident of which the major fire is a part.

4 “(e) MAJOR FIRE DEFINED.—For purposes of this
5 section, the term ‘major fire’ shall have the meaning given
6 such term under regulations to be issued by the Adminis-
7 trator.”.

