

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

118-10

OFFERED BY MR. TRONE OF MARYLAND

Page 1033, after line 14, add the following:

1 **SEC. 18 ____ . NATIONAL BIODEFENSE ANALYSIS AND COUN-**
2 **TERMEASURES CENTER.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-
4 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by
5 adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 324. NATIONAL BIODEFENSE ANALYSIS AND COUN-**
7 **TERMEASURES CENTER.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
9 the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall
10 designate the laboratory described in subsection (b) as an
11 additional laboratory pursuant to the authority under sec-
12 tion 308(c)(2), which shall be the lead Federal facility
13 dedicated to defending the United States against biological
14 threats by—

15 “(1) understanding the risks posed by inten-
16 tional, accidental, and natural biological events; and

17 “(2) providing the operational capabilities to
18 support the investigation, prosecution, and preven-
19 tion of bioerimes and bioterrorism.

1 “(b) LABORATORY DESCRIBED.—The laboratory de-
2 scribed in this subsection may be a federally funded re-
3 search and development center—

4 “(1) known, as of the date of enactment of this
5 section, as the National Biodefense Analysis and
6 Countermeasures Center;

7 “(2) that may include—

8 “(A) the National Bioforensic Analysis
9 Center, which conducts technical analyses in
10 support of Federal law enforcement investiga-
11 tions; and

12 “(B) the National Biological Threat Char-
13 acterization Center, which conducts experiments
14 and studies to better understand biological
15 vulnerabilities and hazards; and

16 “(3) transferred to the Department pursuant to
17 subparagraphs (A), (D), and (F) of section 303(1)
18 and section 303(2).

19 “(c) LABORATORY ACTIVITIES.—The National Bio-
20 defense Analysis and Countermeasures Center shall—

21 “(1) conduct studies and experiments to better
22 understand current and future biological threats and
23 hazards and pandemics;

24 “(2) provide the scientific data required to as-
25 sess vulnerabilities, conduct risk assessments, and

1 determine potential impacts to guide the develop-
2 ment of countermeasures;

3 “(3) conduct and facilitate the technical foren-
4 sic analysis and interpretation of materials recovered
5 following a biological attack, or in other law enforce-
6 ment investigations requiring evaluation of biological
7 materials, in support of the appropriate lead Federal
8 agency;

9 “(4) coordinate with other national laboratories
10 to enhance research capabilities, share lessons
11 learned, and provide training more efficiently;

12 “(5) collaborate with the Homeland Security
13 Enterprise, as defined in section 2200, to plan and
14 conduct research to address gaps and needs in bio-
15 defense; and

16 “(6) carry out other such activities as the Sec-
17 retary determines appropriate.

18 “(d) WORK FOR OTHERS.—The National Biodefense
19 Analysis and Countermeasures Center shall engage in a
20 continuously operating Work for Others program to make
21 the unique biocontainment and bioforensic capabilities of
22 the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures
23 Center available to other Federal agencies.

1 “(e) FACILITY REPAIR AND ROUTINE EQUIPMENT
2 REPLACEMENT.—The National Biodefense Analysis and
3 Countermeasures Center shall—

4 “(1) perform regularly scheduled and required
5 maintenance of laboratory infrastructure; and

6 “(2) procure mission-critical equipment and ca-
7 pability upgrades.

8 “(f) FACILITY MISSION NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To address capacity con-
10 cerns and accommodate future mission needs and
11 advanced capabilities, the Under Secretary for
12 Science and Technology shall conduct a mission
13 needs assessment, to include scoping for potential
14 future needs or expansion, of the National Bio-
15 defense Analysis and Countermeasures Center.

16 “(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days
17 after the date of enactment of this section, the
18 Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall
19 provide the assessment conducted under paragraph
20 (1) to—

21 “(A) the Committee on Homeland Security
22 and Governmental Affairs and the Sub-
23 committee on Homeland Security Appropria-
24 tions of the Committee on Appropriations of the
25 Senate; and

1 “(B) the Committee on Homeland Security
2 and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security
3 Appropriations of the Committee on Appropria-
4 tions of the House of Representatives.

5 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
7 essary to support the activities of the laboratory des-
8 igned under this section.

9 “(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
10 tion may be construed as affecting in any manner the au-
11 thorities or responsibilities of the Countering Weapons of
12 Mass Destruction Office of the Department.”.

13 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
14 The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Se-
15 curity Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135)
16 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section
17 323 the following:

“Sec. 324. National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center.”.

