AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–19

OFFERED BY MR. YOUNG OF ALASKA

At the end of subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. PLAN TO INCREASE AND EXPAND COLD WEATHER TRAINING.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The strategic importance of the Arctic continues to increase as the United States and other countries recognize the military and economic importance of the region. However, the operational capabilities of the United States Armed Forces in extreme cold weather or Arctic environments have atrophied when compared to regional adversaries.

(2) The 2018 national defense strategy stated “The central challenge to U.S. prosperity and security is the reemergence of long-term, strategic competition by what the National Security Strategy classifies as revisionist powers.”

(3) The Government of the Russian Federation—
(A) has made significant military investments in the Arctic, including the creation of an Arctic Command, the Northern Fleet Joint Strategic Command;

(B) has emplaced an Air Defense Missile Regiment throughout the Arctic;

(C) has invested in the construction or refurbishment of 16 deepwater ports and 14 airfields in the region and has conducted significant military exercises.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Arctic is a region of strategic importance to the national security interests of the United States and the Department of the Army must increase and expand its cold weather training capabilities to ensure that United States Armed Forces can operate in Arctic conditions necessary to compete against a near peer adversary and to execute the national defense strategy of the United States.

(c) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Army shall—

(1) conduct an assessment of cold weather training requirements in light of increased operations and vulnerability to great power competition in the Arctic; and
(2) develop a plan to increase and expand cold weather training opportunities.

(d) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the assessment and developing the plan as required under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

(1) assess all existing cold weather training requirements to include requirements for extreme cold, or Arctic conditions;

(2) identify capability gaps in confronting adversaries in the Arctic that can be addressed by increased and improved training;

(3) make recommendations for strengthening and improving those training requirements and mitigation measures needed to address the capabilities gaps necessary to confront adversaries;

(4) assess existing cold weather training sites;

(5) consider steps necessary to increase student capacity at such sites;

(6) consider manpower and supply requirements, including cadre needed to support increased student capacity; and

(7) address any other matters the Secretary of the Army considers relevant.

(e) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
The Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives the plan required by subsection (c).