

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-**

**23**

**OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA**

At the end of subtitle C of title IX, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 9\_\_ . RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL TEST**  
2 **AND EVALUATION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF**  
3 **THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.**

4 (a) BRIEFING ON PLANS TO ADDRESS DEVELOP-  
5 MENTAL TEST AND EVALUATION RESPONSIBILITIES  
6 WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DE-  
7 FENSE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
10 of Defense shall provide a briefing to the Committee  
11 on Armed Services of the House of Representatives  
12 on a strategy to ensure that there is sufficient exper-  
13 tise, oversight, and policy direction on developmental  
14 test and evaluation within the Office of the Sec-  
15 retary of Defense after the completion of the reorga-  
16 nization of such Office required under section 901 of  
17 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
18 Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2339).

1           (2) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required by  
2 paragraph (1) shall address the following:

3           (A) The structure of the roles and respon-  
4 sibilities of the senior Department of Defense  
5 official responsible for developmental test and  
6 evaluation.

7           (B) The location of the senior Department  
8 of Defense official responsible for developmental  
9 test and evaluation within the organizational  
10 structure of the Office of the Secretary of De-  
11 fense.

12           (C) An estimate of personnel and other re-  
13 sources that should be made available to the  
14 senior Department of Defense official respon-  
15 sible for developmental test and evaluation to  
16 ensure that such official can provide inde-  
17 pendent expertise, oversight, and policy direc-  
18 tion and guidance Department of Defense-wide.

19           (D) Methods to ensure that the senior De-  
20 partment of Defense official responsible for de-  
21 velopmental test and evaluation will be empow-  
22 ered to facilitate Department of Defense-wide  
23 efficiencies by helping programs to optimize test  
24 designs.

1                   (E) Methods to ensure that an advocate  
2                   for test and evaluation workforce will continue  
3                   to exist within the acquisition workforce.

4           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
5 gress that—

6                   (1) developmental testing is critical to reducing  
7                   acquisition program risk by providing valuable infor-  
8                   mation to support sound decision making;

9                   (2) major defense acquisition programs often do  
10                  not conduct enough developmental testing, so too  
11                  many problems are first identified during oper-  
12                  ational testing, when they are expensive and time-  
13                  consuming to fix; and

14                  (3) in order to ensure that effective develop-  
15                  mental testing is conducted on major defense acqui-  
16                  sition programs, the Secretary should—

17                           (A) carefully consider where the senior De-  
18                           partment of Defense official responsible for de-  
19                           velopmental test and evaluation is located with-  
20                           in the organizational structure of the Office of  
21                           the Secretary of Defense; and

22                           (B) ensure that such official has sufficient  
23                           authority and resources to provide oversight

1 and policy direction on developmental test and  
2 evaluation Department of Defense-wide.

