

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY THE SERVICEMEMBER QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Overview

The following consists of the joint explanatory material to accompany the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

Section 5 of the Act specifies that this joint explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this legislation as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

In this joint explanatory statement, the provisions of H.R. 8070, the House-passed version of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, are generally referred to as "the House bill". The provisions of S. 4638, the Senate Committee on Armed Services committee-reported version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, are generally referred to as "the Senate committee-reported bill". The provisions in the Senate floor manager's package are generally referred to as "a proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill". The final form of the agreements reached during negotiations between the House and the Senate are referred to as "the agreement".

Disclosure of earmarks and congressionally directed spending items

Although not required by the Rules of the House of Representatives, the joint explanatory statement includes a table that lists the congressional earmarks (as defined in paragraph (e) of clause 9 of rule XXI of the House of Representatives) that are contained in the bill or this joint explanatory statement at the request of a Member of the House of Representatives. The bill or this joint explanatory statement does not contain any congressional earmarks at the request of a Senator. Neither the bill nor the joint explanatory statement contains any limited tax benefits or limited tariff benefits as

defined in paragraphs (f) or (g) of clause 9 of rule XXI of the House of Representatives.

Summary of discretionary authorizations and budget authority implication

The budget request for national defense discretionary programs within the jurisdiction of the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives for fiscal year 2025 was \$883.7 billion. Of this amount, \$849.5 billion was requested for Department of Defense programs, \$33.8 billion was requested for national security programs in the Department of Energy and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and \$378 million for defense-related activities.

The agreement would authorize \$883.7 billion in fiscal year 2025, including \$849.9 billion for Department of Defense programs, \$33.3 billion for national security programs in the Department of Energy and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and \$512.4 million for defense-related activities.

The two tables preceding the detailed program adjustments in division D of the accompanying joint explanatory statement summarize the discretionary authorizations in the agreement and the equivalent budget authority levels for fiscal year 2025 defense programs.

Sec. 4 - Budgetary effects of this Act

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 4) that would state the budgetary effects of this Act for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-139).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

SUBTITLE A—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101 - Authorization of appropriations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 101) that would authorize appropriations for procurement at the levels identified in section 4101 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 101).

The agreement includes this provision.

SUBTITLE B—ARMY PROGRAMS

Sec. 111 - Centralized Security Monitoring Program for facilities of the Army

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 111) that would require the Secretary of the Army to establish a centralized security monitoring program for installations and facilities of the Department of the Army. The provision would also require the Secretary of the Army to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that outlines the plans of the Secretary to implement the centralized security monitoring program.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of the Army to provide a plan to establish centralized security monitoring facilities that includes estimated costs to establish, operate, and maintain these facilities. Further, it would require commencement of the program not later than fiscal year 2027.

Sec. 112 - Pilot program on the use of robotic targets to enhance the lethality of the reserve components of the Army

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 111) that would direct the Secretary of the Army to carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary incorporates the use of moving robotic target systems into live fire training provided to select infantry units of the reserve and National Guard components of the Army.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 113 - Plan for additional kinetic effectors for low, slow, small unmanned aircraft integrated defeat system of the Army

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 113) that would require the Secretary of the Army to certify at least one additional interceptor and production manufacturer for the U.S. Army's low, slow, small-unmanned aircraft integrated defeat system.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of the Army to develop and implement a plan for the procurement and fielding of additional kinetic effectors for low, slow, small-unmanned aircraft integrated defeat system of the Army.

Sec. 114 - Report on procurement of energetic materials from sources outside of the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 112) that would limit the Secretary of the Army from procuring certain end items containing energetic materials that are in production at a Federal Government-owned production facility until the Secretary provides a certification to the congressional defense committees.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would strike the funding limitation and require a report on the procurement of energetic materials from sources outside the United States.

We note that the Department of the Army has been unable to sustain the ammunition industrial base to any level of certainty. Previous munitions budgeting variability led to closures and consolidations of the ammunition industrial base including the Base Realignment and Closure of prominent ammunition production capabilities. Budgeting uncertainty continues today. For example, the U.S. Army programmed to produce 34,380 rounds of 155mm ammunition production in 2014. Today, the U.S. Army is projecting a contractor and organic industrial base to produce a purported 1.2 million rounds of 155mm ammunition by early next year. We note that 1.2 million rounds is a laudable goal that greatly exceeds Army acquisition objectives and is being principally developed to support rearming our allies and partners.

Additionally, we note that the U.S. Army has used the Ukrainian supplemental appropriations to expand contractor operations by direct investment into contractor facilities. We believe that this contractor direct investment was necessary because of the aforementioned budgeting variability and the inability of industry to rely on any level of sustained U.S.

Army ammunition investment. Finally, we believe that ammunition production levels may return to previous de minimis level that will cause the industrial base to again contract. We are disturbed that the U.S. Army is unable to articulate the maximum production capacity of the organic industrial base and believe that maximum organic industrial base capacity should be obtained before additional contractor sources are developed. We believe that the organic industrial base needs to be prioritized to ensure long-term capability is maintained. We support the retention of ammunition organic industrial base so that when the inevitable reduction of ammunition production is programmed, a core organic industrial base can be retained for future mobilization.

SUBTITLE C—NAVY PROGRAMS

Sec. 121 - Modifications to procurement authorities for certain amphibious shipbuilding programs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 132) that would provide flexibility for procurement authorities for certain amphibious shipbuilding programs.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 130A).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would clarify the authorization to enter into economic order quantity contracts provided in section 129 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) and allow the Navy to use advance procurement authority across the two ship programs.

Sec. 122 - Modification of requirement to incorporate advanced degaussing systems into Arleigh Burke class destroyers

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 127) that would delay the required implementation of an advanced degaussing system in the *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer from fiscal year 2025 until fiscal year 2028 in order to have this design change match the beginning of the next destroyer multiyear contract.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

We also expect the Navy to exercise due diligence in resolving problems that have arisen in installing an advanced degaussing system on the *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock.

Sec. 123 - Extension of prohibition on availability of funds for Navy port waterborne security barriers

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 121) that would amend section 130(a) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232) by extending the prohibition on the use of funds for waterborne security barriers through fiscal year 2025.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 124 - Modification of annual report on cost targets for certain aircraft carriers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 131) that would modify the annual report on cost targets for aircraft carriers to include additional cost data fidelity and subsequent *Ford*-class aircraft carriers.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 125 - Designation of official responsible for autonomous surface and underwater dual-modality vehicles

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 135) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to designate an official who is responsible for autonomous surface and underwater dual-modality vehicles.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 126 - Multiyear procurement authority for CH-53K aircraft and T408 engines

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 133) that would provide the Secretary of the Navy with multiyear procurement authority for CH-53K aircraft and T408 engines.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 126) that would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a block buy contract for CH-53K aircraft and multiyear procurement authority for T408 engines.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 127 - Recapitalization of tactical fighter aircraft of the Navy Reserve

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 134) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to assign only to the Navy Reserve all F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft procured using funds appropriated for the Navy for fiscal year 2022 or fiscal year 2023.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require that: (1) Eight F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft from the fiscal year 2023 procurement go to U.S. Navy Reserve; (2) The Secretary of the Navy develop a cost estimate for establishing any of the existing U.S. Navy Reserve fighter squadrons tactically deployable to meet geographical combatant commander operational requirements; and (3) Remove the mandate for establishing a tactically deployable U.S. Navy Reserve F/A-18E/F squadron until the cost estimate is submitted and assessed by Congress.

Sec. 128 - Limitation on the construction of the Landing Ship Medium

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 136) that would prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for the procurement of the Medium Landing Ship (LSM) until the Secretary of the Navy certifies that the LSM design is not based on more than 35 percent military specifications. It would also require the Secretary of the Navy to submit a report to the congressional defense committees detailing the differences in cost and construction schedules between a ship design based on military specifications and a design that uses commercial standards and elements.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 123) that would prohibit the Secretary of the Navy from awarding a contract for the LSM program, including construction of the lead ship, until basic and functional design are certified to be complete.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would provide that: (1) This design completion restriction would not apply to a commercial or non-developmental design for an LSM; and (2) The Navy Service Acquisition Executive could waive the requirements for full and open competition for the lead ship of the LSM program if the design of the LSM were commercial or non-developmental.

Sec. 129 - Limitation on availability of funds for Constellation-class frigate program pending certification on basic and functional design

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 122) that would prohibit the Secretary of the Navy from obligating or expending any funds authorized for fiscal year 2025 for the construction of a *Constellation*-class frigate until the Secretary of Defense certifies that 95 percent of functional design drawings have been approved by the designated technical authority. The provision would also require the Comptroller General of the United States to assess the Secretary of Defense's compliance with the requirements and evaluate the completeness of functional design.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with minor technical amendments.

Sec. 130 - Limitation on structural improvements and electrical power upgrades for AH-1Z and UH-1Y helicopters

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 137) that would require the Navy to conduct all structural improvement and electrical power upgrades for AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom helicopters at the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) until the Secretary of the Navy certifies that the plan for carrying out the upgrades elsewhere would result in: (1) Greater performance; (2) Improved on-board electrical capacity; (3) Improved and expanded weapons interfaces; and (4) Improved ease of maintenance.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment to require that the Secretary certify that an alternate source for the upgrades provide matching or improved performance compared to the OEM.

Sec. 131 - Annual report on surface ship suppliers

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 125) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to submit an annual report to the congressional defense committees analyzing suppliers of surface ship components.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE D—AIR FORCE PROGRAMS

Sec. 141 - Extension of limitations and minimum inventory requirement relating to RQ-4 aircraft

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 137) that would extend the sunset date for section 9062 of title 10, United States Code, regarding RQ-4 aircraft by 1 year until the end of fiscal year 2029.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 142 - Annual report on Air Force tactical fighter aircraft force structure

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 136) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to provide an annual report reflecting a 10-year plan for Air Force fighter aircraft force structure, recapitalization, training, and sustainment of the active and reserve components of the Air Force.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 143 - Modifications to inventory requirements for certain aircraft

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 152) that would reduce the number of fighter aircraft that the Air Force would be required to maintain from 1,145 aircraft to a level of 1,106 aircraft. This reduction would account for the planned retirement of 39 primary mission aircraft inventory (PMAI) A-10 aircraft.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 138) that would authorize the Air Force to retire a portion of the current fighter aircraft inventory. The provision would approve the Air Force request to retire the following aircraft: (1) 56 total aircraft inventory (TAI) A-10s; (2) 65 TAI F-15C/Ds; and (3) 11 TAI F-16C/Ds. The provision would not allow the Air Force to divest 26 F-15E or 32 F-22 aircraft.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would include authority to reduce 36 PMAI F-15Cs, and 3 PMAI F-16s. Force structure for the F-15E fleet is addressed elsewhere in the Act.

Sec. 144 - Extension of prohibition on certain reductions to inventory of E-3 airborne warning and control system aircraft

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 131) that would require the U.S. Air Force to maintain 16 E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft until the E-3 AWACS can be replaced by E-7 Wedgetail aircraft, or until the retirement of the E-3 AWACS would create no lapse in U.S. Air Force capabilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 145 - Extension of requirements relating to C-130 aircraft

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 153) that would require the Air Force to maintain the C-130 total aircraft inventory at 271 aircraft, with a sunset date of October 1, 2025. It would also extend the prohibition on reducing the C-130 inventory in the Air National Guard through fiscal year 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 146 - Management of temporary relocation of B-1 bomber aircraft and personnel

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 132) that would amend section 133 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81), as amended by section 136 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31), to require the Secretary of the Air Force to actively manage the existing B-1 bomber force structure as the fleet transitions to the B-21 bomber.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 147 - Consolidation of authorities relating to Air Force landing gear

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 157) that would require the U.S. Air Force to consolidate supply chain management, item management, and delegated engineering authorities of landing gear systems for certain aircraft under the Air Force Sustainment Center.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 148 - Recapitalization of air refueling tanker aircraft of the reserve components of the Air Force

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 156) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to replace current Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve air refueling aircraft with an air refueling aircraft that has capabilities equivalent to or exceeding the capabilities of the aircraft being replaced.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would: (1) Require the Secretary of the Air Force to replace reserve component KC-135 aircraft on a one-for-one basis; (2) Prevent the Secretary from moving KC-135 aircraft from another reserve component unit for the purposes of satisfying this one-for-one replacement requirement; (3) Prevent the Secretary from reducing the air refueling tanker inventory of the Air Reserve Components below the force structure level identified in the fiscal year 2025 budget request; and (4) In the event a reserve component unit is assigned a greater number of KC-135s than are to be replaced by KC-46 aircraft, require that any such aircraft remain within the reserve components for redistribution.

Sec. 149 - Prohibition on reduction of KC-135 aircraft in PMAI of the reserve components

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 151) that would: (1) Raise the number of air refueling aircraft required to be maintained by the Air Force from 466 to 474; and (2) Prevent the Air Force from reducing the number of primary mission aircraft inventory KC-135 aircraft in the Air Force Guard and Reserve.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would exclude raising the required number of air refueling aircraft.

Sec. 150 - Prohibition on retirement of F-15E aircraft and requirement to conduct fighter aircraft capabilities and requirements study

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 154) that would prohibit the retirement of any F-15E tactical fighter aircraft, with certain exceptions, until the Secretary of Defense submits a fighter aircraft capability and requirements study that estimates the number of Air Force fighter aircraft needed to meet the requirements of geographical combatant commanders.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would include a prohibition on retirement of F-15 aircraft through fiscal year 2027.

Sec. 151 - Notification of delays in delivery of MH-139 aircraft

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 158) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to notify the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives of any delay in delivery of MH-139 aircraft within 30 days of becoming aware of such delay.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 152 - Plan and requirements for fielding air base air defense sites at Air Force installations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1055) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to develop a plan to support fielding of air base air defense sites at Air Force installations. This section would further require the Secretary to ensure that no fewer than four sites are fielded by September 30, 2027.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 135).

The agreement includes the House provision, amended to require: (1) The Secretary consult with U.S. Northern Command; and (2) That two of the four air base air defense locations be located in the United States.

Sec. 153 - Plan for establishment and maintenance of F-16 simulators at Air National Guard training centers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 159) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Director of the Air National Guard, to develop and implement a plan to fully fund the establishment and maintenance of F-16 simulators at training centers of the Air National Guard.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would remove the mandate to implement the plan and require the Secretary and the Air National Guard to provide a cost estimate of a plan to establish F-16 simulators at various locations. We also expect the Secretary of the Air Force and the Director of the Air National Guard to promptly develop and implement a plan that determines the funding required to permanently install required aircraft arresting gear equipment to support operational requirements at the various basing locations transitioning to the F-16 tactical-fighter aircraft.

Sec. 154 - Plan for sustainment and recapitalization of Air National Guard fighter fleet

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 134) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to develop a plan for modernizing all 25 fighter aircraft squadrons in the Air National Guard.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary to include: (1) The overall impact on operational considerations and budgets on the ability of the total force to field fighter forces; and (2) The timetable and estimated costs of implementing such a plan.

SUBTITLE E—DEFENSE-WIDE, JOINT, AND MULTISERVICE MATTERS

Sec. 161 - Modification to Air Force and Navy use of commercial dual-use parts in certain aircraft and engines

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 171) that would amend section 161 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) to expand coverage to include new parts in the consideration of acquiring spares for use in commercial derivative aircraft and engines and aircraft based on commercially designed aircraft.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 162 - Measures to increase supply chain resiliency for small unmanned aerial systems

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 223) that would require the Department of Defense to dismantle and identify the origin of components of a Da Jiang Innovations drone. It also contained a provision (sec. 178) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to conduct a study to identify sources of secure parts for unmanned aircraft systems.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 871) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, and the Secretaries of the military departments, to submit a strategy to develop a secure domestic and allied supply chain of critical components for small uncrewed aerial systems.

The agreement includes the House provision (sec. 223) that includes an amendment that would require the Department of Defense to develop an integrated set of measures to identify risks in the small uncrewed aerial systems (sUAS) supply chain and increase resiliency of such sUAS supply chain from domestic and allied sources. These measures would include a requirement for disassembly and analysis of commercially available foreign drone aircraft; development of supply chain framework (including a determination of whether any foreign companies should be added to the list pursuant to 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) as a result of this analysis); and development of a resilient supply chain strategy for sourcing of critical components.

Sec. 163 - Policy on qualifications of contractors for into-plane fuel deliveries for heavy-lift aircraft

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 172) that would require the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency to develop and implement a policy that establishes factors for determining the qualifications of fixed-based operators bidding on contracts to provide into-plane fuel deliveries for heavy-lift aircraft at airports with sufficient weight-bearing capacity.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 164 - Prohibition on operation, procurement, and contracting related to foreign-made light detection and ranging technology

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 173) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from purchasing or operating covered light detection and ranging technology that was manufactured by the People's Republic of China or another covered foreign entity.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 883) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from operating or entering into contracts for procurement of light detection and ranging technology from covered foreign countries.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 165 - Limitation on procurement of F-35 aircraft pending certification on improvements and correction of deficiencies

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 174) that would permit the Secretary of Defense to accept delivery of only 48 of 58 F-35 aircraft authorized for procurement during fiscal year 2025 until the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees certain corrective action plans and acquisition strategies that will improve research, development, testing, evaluation, production and sustainment issues and deficiencies identified across multiple areas within the F-35 program enterprise. The provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to provide annual updates, for 5 consecutive years beginning on April 1, 2025, for all corrective actions and plans implemented by the Secretary.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 133) that would amend section 226 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to require more information on the plans of the Department of Defense to upgrade the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) propulsion and thermal management systems.

The agreement includes the House provision with minor technical changes.

We understand that the F-35 prime contractor has committed to investing \$350.0 million of its own resources to improve program execution and increase efficiencies with development, testing, and fielding of new hardware and software capabilities. This, in part, is to address shortages that the prime contractor faces within the program's enterprise. We encourage other major subcontractors participating in the program to also consider investing internal financial resources into the program to enable more efficiencies and greater productivity to accelerate

the development, testing, and fielding of new and more advanced capabilities that are required to counter existing and future threats from adversaries.

Sec. 166 - Assessments of inventory requirements for air-to-air missiles

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 175) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Navy, in coordination with the commanders of certain geographical combatant commands, to jointly conduct an assessment of the sufficiency of established inventory requirements for air-to-air missiles within the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of each service Secretary. This section would also require the Secretary of the Air Force to conduct a cost-benefit and technical risk assessment of developing and procuring an extended range AIM-120D missile to augment the existing inventories.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 143) that would require an assessment of inventories of air-to-air missile. It would require the Secretaries to develop recommendations to adjust the planned mix of missiles, including an assessment of whether extending the range or capability of existing air-to-air missiles would better support combined combatant command requirements at medium risk.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would add a requirement to submit an unclassified report, which may include a classified annex, to the congressional defense committees not later than April 1, 2025.

Sec. 167 - Plan for signals intelligence capabilities of armed overwatch aircraft

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 142) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, to submit a plan for integrating signals intelligence capabilities on fielded armed overwatch aircraft.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Report on Black Hawk helicopter program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 113) that would direct the Secretary of the Army, not later than 30 days after the date on which the budget of the President for fiscal year 2026 is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on Modernization of the Black Hawk helicopter program of the Army.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct that, not later than 30 days after the date on which the budget of the President for fiscal year 2026 is submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on Modernization of the Black Hawk helicopter program of the Army. The report shall include:

(1) Identification of the program elements and level of funding requested for the Black Hawk Modernization program for the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 set forth separately by fiscal year and appropriations account;

(2) Requirements for the program that are sufficient to ensure the Black Hawk helicopters of the Army are systematically modernized to address obsolescence, improve performance, and provide capabilities that ensure relevance in the joint all domain operational environment; and

(3) A program acquisition strategy for Black Hawk Modernization.

Plan for providing certain aircraft to the Army National Guard

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 114) that would require the Secretary of the Army to submit a plan for providing certain aircraft to the Army National Guard.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Army to submit a plan, not later than March 31, 2025, to congressional defense committees for providing the following aircraft to relevant aviation units of the Army National Guard in a manner that is consistent with provision of the same air frames with Active-Duty aviation units and operational requirements. The aircraft described in this subsection are the following:

- (1) AH-64E aircraft;
- (2) MQ-1C M25 aircraft;
- (3) CH-47 aircraft;

- (4) UH-60M aircraft; and
- (5) Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft.

Development of requirement for shipping container production facility at domestic Army installation

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 115) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a requirement for the establishment of a shipping container production facility within the United States at an Army installation found to meet feasibility and readiness goals.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the importance of having a secure source of supply for shipping containers in order to meet the deployment and sustainment requirements of the Department of Defense. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the feasibility and advisability of developing a requirement for the establishment of a shipping container production facility within the United States.

Sense of Congress on aircraft carrier procurement

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 138) that would recommend that the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy optimize aircraft carrier acquisition strategies to balance operational, taxpayer, and industrial interests, revise the *Ford*-class strategy to align with key analyses and national security goals, and ensure CVN-82 procurement by fiscal year 2028.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 130).

The agreement does not include either provision.

We agree that the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy should follow direction in the House and Senate bills.

Limitation on use of funds pending submission of report on plan for long-term Air Force fighter force structure

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 155) that would prohibit the obligation or expenditure of more than 75 percent of travel funds of the Secretary of the Air Force during fiscal year 2025 until the Secretary submits to the congressional

defense committees the delinquent report required by section 148(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We are aware that the Air Force had completed the report required by section 148(c) earlier this year, but chose not to release the report in sufficient time to inform the congressional budget process. In order to ensure Congress can conduct thorough oversight of the Department of Defense, the Air Force must be more transparent with the congressional defense committees and must meet reporting deadlines as directed by existing law.

Funding for C-130 modular airborne firefighting system

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 160) that would provide an additional \$20.0 million for the Modular Airborne Firefighting System, offset by a similar reduction from the VC-25B system development and demonstration program.

The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

The specific authorization of appropriations amounts can be found in the funding tables.

Requirement for minimum number of air logistics complexes

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 161) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to continuously operate not less than three air logistics complexes.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the three public Air Force logistics centers play a critical role in support of our national defense by ensuring the readiness and sustainability of the Air Force. The three public logistics centers provide comprehensive maintenance, repair, and overhaul services for a wide range of aircraft, munitions, and weapon systems, ensuring that these assets remain operational and effective. The strategic location and specialized expertise of each of the three public logistics centers enable the Air Force to respond to emerging threats, strengthen our national defense, and ensure that the Air Force maintains air superiority in an evolving global environment.

Modification to multiyear procurement authority for certain critical minerals

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 176) that would modify the multiyear procurement authority for certain critical minerals.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the existing authority of section 152 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) that provides the Department of Defense with the authority for multiyear procurement of domestically processed critical minerals. We continue to work with the Department of Defense on the utility and feasibility of rare earth recycling and note that the House report accompanying this Act included a briefing requirement on the export of end-of-life equipment containing rare earth elements outside the United States.

Sense of Congress on domestic procurement of defense articles for AUKUS partnership

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 177) that would express the sense of Congress regarding domestic procurement of defense articles for the Australia-United Kingdom-United States partnership.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Australia-United Kingdom-United States partnership, known as AUKUS, is critical for establishing a strong and integrated web of defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. We recognize that researching, producing, and procuring defense articles for the AUKUS partnership from within the United States has the potential to enhance domestic defense production capabilities and make for stronger and more resilient allied supply chains. We encourage the Secretary of Defense to continue to promote and encourage domestic manufacturing, supply chains, and research for defense articles that are intended for use by members of the AUKUS partnership, and promote opportunities to integrate partner and domestic capabilities to the extent practicable.

Strategy for Army active protection systems

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 112) that would direct the Secretary of the Army to submit

a strategy to the congressional defense committees, not later than September 30, 2025, for the testing, procurement, integration, and fielding of active protection systems on Army ground combat vehicles.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Army, not later than September 30, 2025, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the testing, procurement, integration, and fielding of vehicle protection systems on Army ground combat vehicles.

The report shall include:

(1) The status of all vehicle protection systems previously considered, tested, integrated, or procured by the Army;

(2) The status of any Army projects to develop its own vehicle protection system, including an explanation for the Army's decision to compete with commercial alternatives;

(3) The Army's plan to solicit bids for its modular vehicle base kit;

(4) A plan to conduct operational testing of all vehicle protection systems, including any system being developed by the Army, which shall assess:

(a) a shot by each system under the same conditions;

(b) multishot capability;

(c) collateral damage;

(d) damage to witness plates or vehicles;

(e) ability to defeat threats of concern to the Army, including:

(i) full top attack threats;

(ii) kinetic energy rounds;

(iii) unmanned aerial systems, by class; and

(iv) fuzed missiles;

(f) ability to upgrade each system to address future threats;

(g) weight and power draw of each system; and

(h) such other matters as the Secretary determines relevant.

(5) A strategy for the Army to integrate, test, and achieve a program of record for active vehicle protection systems on current and future combat vehicle fleets. In developing the strategy, the Secretary of the Army shall consider the following objectives and factors:

(a) the risks incurred by the Army in its current active vehicle protection system posture of limited integration onto ground vehicle fleets;

(b) lessons learned from active vehicle protection systems in ongoing armed conflicts;

(c) the capabilities of active vehicle protection systems from foreign or domestic entities;

(d) the acquisition and lifecycle costs of each active vehicle protection system identified in section (1) of the report; and

(e) the Army's plan for modularity, including the ability to use the same active vehicle protection system across multiple platforms.

Authority for the procurement, leasing, or chartering of a medium-sized landing ship

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 124) that would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract or other agreement for the procurement, leasing, or chartering of a commercial or non-developmental ship that meets core U.S. Marine Corps requirements for operational sealift and landing troops, equipment, and supplies to a beach.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

BUDGET ITEMS

Stryker Family of Vehicles

We recognize that the Army's eight Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCT) continue to demonstrate their indispensable value in helping the service meet its global commitments. Current Army platform modernization efforts invest in fielding cutting-edge capabilities for combat vehicles in the Infantry and Armored Brigade Combat Teams but do not support platform modernization for SBCTs. We are interested in understanding the Army's long-term investment and modernization strategy as it relates to future SBCT force structure; Stryker vehicle upgrades; elimination of flat bottom hull variants and formations; and other capabilities that Stryker vehicles could host, such as Electromagnetic Warfare (EW), Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) / Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS), and mission command

systems across the Army. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of the Army to provide a report on the Army's long-term Stryker investment plan to the congressional defense committees not later than March 31, 2025.

SUBTITLE A—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 201 - Authorization of appropriations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 201) that would authorize appropriations for research, development, test, and evaluation at the levels identified in section 4201 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 201).

The agreement includes this provision.

SUBTITLE B—PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND LIMITATIONS

Sec. 211 - Modification of certain requirements relating to the Joint Energetics Transition Office

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 211) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a budget line for the Joint Energetics Transition Office and establish a course of instruction for the development of energetic materials and ensuring the safety of explosives.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would clarify the budget and funding requirements of the Joint Energetics Transition Office.

Sec. 212 - Modification to annual report on unfunded priorities of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 212) that would require the Secretary of Defense to coordinate with the Secretaries of the military departments on military construction projects to be submitted as unfunded priorities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would clarify projects must reach at least 35 percent design complete to be viable.

Sec. 213 - Modification to defense laboratory education partnerships

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 213) that would amend section 2194(b) of title 10, United States Code, to permit defense laboratories to provide direct financial assistance for educational partnership agreements.

The Senate committee-reported contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 214 - Extension of Global Research Watch Program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 212) that would amend section 4066 of title 10, United States Code, to extend the Global Research Watch program from 2025 to 2035.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 215 - Expansion of authority for technology protection features activities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 216) that would amend section 4067 of title 10, United States Code, to expand the authority of the Department of Defense to conduct exportability planning activities to strengthen ally and partner military capability, and improve coalition interoperability.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 216 - Modification to personnel management authority to attract experts in science, engineering, and certain other disciplines

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 215) that would improve the ability of the Defense Innovation Unit, Strategic Capabilities Office, Office of Strategic Capital, and the Space Development Agency to attract and more rapidly hire new types of staff.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

We note that the Department of Defense has several direct hire and other personnel management authorities which support the tailored needs of the Department in attracting and retaining personnel in specialized and highly skilled areas. We also understand the challenges of managing those authorities, and coordinating with the Office of Personnel Management to utilize the full range of existing authorities when possible.

Therefore, we direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on the processes and challenges in managing these direct hiring authorities and coordinating with the Office of Personnel Management.

Sec. 217 - Codification of the Laboratory Quality Enhancement Program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 217) that would amend subchapter III of chapter 303 of title 10, United States Code, to make permanent the authority for the Laboratory Quality Enhancement Program that was established in section 211 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 218 - Modification to consortium on use of additive manufacturing for defense capability development

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 216) that would amend section 223 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) and require the additive manufacturing consortium to develop systems to support certain capabilities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would clarify that the Department of Defense should utilize the consortium on additive manufacturing to develop a process for the certification of new advanced manufacturing materials and processes for flight critical parts.

Sec. 219 - Modification to continuous capability development and delivery program for F-35 aircraft

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 217) that would amend section 225(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to require the Secretary of Defense to procure at least nine new developmental testing aircraft from any production lot of aircraft beginning with Lot 18 or later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 5141).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 220 - Modifications to test program for engineering plant of DDG(X) destroyer vessels

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 214) that would amend section 221 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) by requiring the full-scale testing of a minimum of two electric propulsion motor technologies.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision, amended to include a requirement that the systems tested must demonstrated a minimum of 40 megawatts of reserve power.

We also direct the Secretary of the Navy to produce a comprehensive report identifying the sustainment and life cycle cost of the two electric propulsion motor technologies tested and submit said report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2025.

Sec. 221 - Improvements relating to defining, identifying, and planning the artificial intelligence workforce of the Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 231) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to fully define and identify the Department of Defense artificial intelligence workforce, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer, and the Chief Information Officer.

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 248) that would require a report on artificial intelligence workforce of the Department of Defense not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 222 - Modification to artificial intelligence education strategy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 247) that would amend section 256 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) by adding an additional requirement to the artificial intelligence education program concerning education of the force on artificial intelligence (AI).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of Defense to develop distance education courses on AI available to the force within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

Sec. 223 - Modification of CVN-73 to support fielding of MQ-25 unmanned aerial vehicle

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 218) that would modify the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232) for the modification of CVN-73 to support fielding of the MQ-25.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 224 - Modification to innovators information repository in the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 228) that would modify section 220 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232) by requiring the head of the Defense Technical Information Center to update the innovators information repository with some new data elements.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 225 - Duties of Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer Governing Council relating to artificial intelligence models and advanced artificial intelligence technologies

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 242) that would expand the duties of the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer Governing Council.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 226 - Ensuring compliance with Department of Defense policy when awarding research grants

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 211) that would amend section 1286 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232) to require Department of Defense (DOD) components to conduct periodic examinations of research awards made to institutions of higher education in order to ensure compliance with current DOD research security policy.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 227 - Extension and modification of Directed Energy Working Group

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 246) that would amend section 219(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) to extend the Directed Energy Working Group by 5 years.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment that would add additional program cost details to the reoccurring briefing requirement.

Sec. 228 - National Defense Economic Competition Research Council

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 239) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish and charter a council to identify, evaluate, and coordinate research efforts relating to economic competition activities that undermine the defense strategy of the United States and its partners and allies, and require that the council regularly solicit input from the Joint Staff and combatant commands on needs, problem statements, or other topics relating

to research on economic competition activities to support their respective areas of responsibility.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 229 - Agility Prime Transition Working Group

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 219) that would establish a working group to assist in the transition of hybrid and electric vertical take-off and landing technologies developed under the Air Force's Agility Prime program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 230 - Authority for temporary assignment of employees of the Office of Strategic Capital to certain private-sector organizations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 221) that would allow the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Director of Office of Strategic Capital, to carry out a program under which Director arranges for the temporary assignment of an employee of the Office to a qualifying private-sector organization.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 231 - Quantum Benchmarking Initiative

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 243) that would require the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to establish a Quantum Scaling Initiative to rapidly expand and support the development of fault-tolerant utility-scale quantum computing capability available to the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 232 - Expansion of participation in the Digital On-Demand Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 230) that would require the Secretary of Defense to take steps necessary to expand participation in the Digital On-Demand program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 233 - Management and utilization of digital data to enhance maintenance activities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 245) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments and the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of Defense, to develop and implement policies to manage and utilize data derived from digital data systems for aircraft, ships, and ground vehicles in support of maintenance activity.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 234 - Electromagnetic spectrum demonstration program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 235) that would require the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense to test wideband adaptive signal processing for simultaneous transmission and reception of signals on the same electromagnetic spectrum frequency band.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

We believe that Department of Defense access to the electromagnetic spectrum remains vital to national security and homeland defense; and that such interests should frame considerations regarding increasing demand for civilian access to electromagnetic spectrum bands reserved for national security.

We believe that wideband adaptive signal processing shows promise as part of a broader suite of dynamic spectrum sharing (DSS) technologies. We note that the National Spectrum Strategy (NSS) Implementation Plan promotes demonstration of advanced DSS technologies and techniques. We also note strong congressional support for such a demonstration: most recently in the House report accompanying H.R. 2760 (H. Rept. 118-125) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024. We believe that the rapid and thorough conduct of such a demonstration is essential, not just to show the feasibility of additional

spectrum access for civilian spectrum users without compromising Department of Defense and intelligence community missions and capabilities, but also to demonstrate the Department of Defense's good-faith and collaboration with industry, academia, and other Federal departments and agencies.

We emphasize the Department of Defense memorandum titled "Dynamic Spectrum Sharing Demonstration," dated September 18, 2024, and support the rapid pace of directed activities. We are aware that the conduct of DSS demonstration requires sustained effort across fiscal years and Department of Defense organizations. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than March 1, 2025, to provide a briefing to the Armed Services Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the plan required in the memorandum for developmental prototyping, experimentation, and testing activities related to a DSS demonstration, including anticipated funding requirements for fiscal year 2025 and the future years defense program.

Sec. 235 - Competitive demonstration of automated target recognition algorithms

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 213) that would require the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer (CDAO) of the Department of Defense to incorporate into a global information dominance experiment a competitive demonstration of at least two different automated target recognition (ATR) algorithms to determine the most suitable source of development.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment that would require the development of a venue and processes, including a specified set of baseline scenarios, for comparative testing of automated target recognition algorithms to determine mission performance.

We direct the Deputy Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees, not later than February 1, 2025, on the share of resources contributed by relevant offices, including DIU, CDAO, and the military services, to implementation of this section.

Furthermore, we direct the CDAO to provide a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than December 20, 2025, on the development of ATR algorithms across the Department of Defense, including a review of implementation of this section and a status report on the development of approved information technology infrastructure to allow the sharing, training, and use of models.

Sec. 236 - Pilot program on development of near-term use cases and demonstration of artificial intelligence toward biotechnology applications for national security

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 241) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in coordination with the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer, to develop a plan for the establishment of a secure computing and data storage environment to facilitate the testing of artificial intelligence (AI) models trained on biological data and the development and testing of products generated by such models.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 236) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program focused on the development of near-term use cases and demonstrations of AI toward biotechnology applications for national security.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 237 - Pilot program on use of artificial intelligence for certain workflow and operations tasks

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 241) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the Secretary of the Army, Secretary of the Navy, and Secretary of the Air Force, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of using artificial intelligence-enabled software to optimize the workflow operations for (1) depots, shipyards, or other manufacturing facilities; and (2) contract administration for the Department, including the adjudication and review of contracts managed by the Defense Contract Management Agency.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 238 - Limitation on availability of funds for fundamental research collaboration with certain academic institutions

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 225, 226, and 1316) that would prohibit institutions of higher education that conduct research funded by the Department of Defense (DOD) from entering into agreements with covered nations or foreign entities of concern; prohibit funds from being appropriated to

any institution of higher education which conducts fundamental research with countries of concern; and require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the feasibility and effects of implementing a prohibition on DOD funds for any individual or institution located in a country of concern.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 218).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

SUBTITLE C—PLANS, REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 241 - Incorporating human readiness levels into research, development, test, and evaluation activities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 244) that would require the Secretary of Defense to initiate a review of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) Standard 400-2021 to determine whether any materials from this standard can and should be incorporated or referenced in Department of Defense (DOD) procedures and guidance material in order to enhance safety in relation to human factors. The provision would also require the Secretary to conduct preliminary mapping of the current human readiness levels of DOD, based on the ANSI and HFES Standard 400-2021, and how these levels align with the current technology readiness levels of major development and acquisition programs, as defined in section 4201 of title 10, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 242 - Biotechnology roadmap

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 243) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a biotechnology roadmap to guide efforts of the Department of Defense relating to biotechnology.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 237).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 243 - Plan to advance interests of Department of Defense in matters relating to electromagnetic spectrum in international fora

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 232) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a 5-year plan for advancing Department of Defense interests in matters relating to the electromagnetic spectrum in international engagements or fora.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 244 - Strategic plan for quantum information science technologies within the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 220) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategic plan to guide the development and maturation of quantum information sciences (QIS) technologies within the Department of Defense and military services and require the Secretary to establish a center of excellence for quantum computing at an existing military service laboratory.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

We are aware of QIS research and development underway across the military service research laboratories and believe this work will be critical to maintaining United States leadership in this emerging technology area. For example, ongoing QIS work taking place at Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Rome is making strides in advancing the technology readiness level of QIS technologies and developing the requisite technical workforce needed for the United States to lead in QIS. We encourage AFRL and the other service research laboratories to continue these efforts.

Sec. 245 - Defense Science Board study on long-term operations and availability of Kwajalein Atoll as a Major Range and Test Facility Base

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 240) that would require the Defense Science Board to assess the feasibility and advisability of designating the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site and United

States Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll as facilities and resources comprising the Major Range and Test Facility Base.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with technical and conforming amendments.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Funding for National Defense Education Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 202) that would increase, by \$5.0 million, the funding for the National Defense Education Program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Authorization of specific funding amounts can be found in the funding tables.

Use of partnership intermediaries to promote defense research and education

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 214) that would clarify the authorities for defense laboratories to enter into partnership intermediary agreements.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Pilot program on establishment of a test and evaluation cell within the Defense Innovation Unit

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 222) that would establish a pilot program within the Defense Innovation Unit to conduct test and evaluation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) has evolved greatly over the last decade, but we believe continued maturation of the organization requires a thoughtful approach for its long-term test and evaluation strategy. We recognize the potential challenges DIU may face in test and evaluation including access to range time, adequate data collection, and evaluation tools, as these challenges are pervasive across the test and evaluation community. Because of the nature of its mission to rapidly identify and field capabilities, there is also a challenge in

balancing rapid fielding needs with the potential to integrate into the broader, traditional test and evaluation enterprise.

Therefore, we direct the Director of the DIU to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than June 1, 2025, detailing:

(1) DIU's current test and evaluation strategy, to include planned efforts in coordination with the Director of the Test Resource Management Center, the Director for Developmental Test, Evaluation and Assessments, and the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation;

(2) Any barriers or challenges to execution of these plans;

(3) DIU's plans for future test and evaluation activities, including any anticipated spending and staffing estimates;

(4) DIU's planned use of digital ranges or other test infrastructure for software or data systems;

(5) Best practices for test and evaluation for commercial and non-traditional technologies;

(6) Any plans to leverage software solutions to better maximize test data collection and post-test evaluation; and

(7) Any other information the Director deems relevant.

Program on limited objective experimentation in support of Air Force operations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 224) that would require the Commander, Air Force Research Laboratory, to carry out limited objective experimentation (LOE) in coordination with a partnership intermediary.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We are aware of successful LOE activities ongoing at the Air Force Research Laboratory, including through the Northeast Multi-Domain Operations Alliance. We understand this alliance has effectively brought together government and non-government organizations to execute an experimentation initiative to accelerate the development, demonstration, and fielding of innovative capabilities to solve multi-domain operational challenges. We encourage other elements of the Department of Defense's innovation enterprise to leverage these existing partnerships and collaborative regional ecosystems to further

develop, experiment, and integrate cross domain solutions across the joint force.

Disclosure requirements for persons performing research or development projects for the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 227) that would amend section 4001 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new subsection on disclosure requirements.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibition on availability of funds for canine and feline research

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 229) that would prohibit the use of funds for conducting biomedical research or testing using canines or felines.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Study and report on foreign capital disclosure requirements of certain Department of Defense organizations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 242) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to enter into a contract or other agreement with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an independent study on the foreign capital disclosure requirements of organizations of the Department of Defense that routinely engage with commercial entities backed by private equity or venture capital funds.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the desirability of harmonizing capital disclosure requirements across the Department, the Federal Government, and allies and partners. We therefore direct the Secretary of Defense to provide to the congressional defense committees by July 15, 2025, a briefing on the foreign capital disclosure requirements of organizations of the Department of Defense that routinely engage with commercial entities backed by private equity or venture capital funds. The briefing should include the following:

(1) A comparison of current foreign capital disclosure requirements used by organizations within the Department of Defense that engage with commercial entities backed by private equity or venture capital funds, including the Defense Innovation Unit, National Security Innovation Capital, and other such organizations within the Department and across the services;

(2) A description of any business intelligence, due diligence information, classified information, and other information sources available to such organizations to assist the organizations in formulating and executing foreign capital disclosure requirements;

(3) A description of the extent to which such foreign capital disclosure requirements are shared with commercial entities;

(4) A description of best practices for foreign capital disclosure requirements across the Department of Defense, including best practices for flexibly implementing such requirements;

(5) An assessment of the feasibility of harmonizing the best practices as described above across the Department of Defense in a responsive manner;

(6) A description of relevant foreign capital disclosure requirements that are used elsewhere within the Federal Government and by relevant international allies, partners, and organizations;

(7) A description of such other factors as may be relevant to inform the implementation of coordinated, effective foreign capital disclosure requirements across the Department of Defense and international allies and partners; and

(8) Such other information as the Secretary deems appropriate.

Authority for Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement for an assessment of biotechnology capabilities of adversaries of the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 244) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment related to biotechnology.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the findings and recommendations of a federally funded research and

development center assessment related to biotechnology not later than June 15, 2025. Such report shall include-

(1) A literature review of scientific topics related to biotechnology of military interest;

(2) An evaluation of the scientific capabilities of potential adversaries of the United States, such as the People's Republic of China, Iran, and the Russian Federation, related to biotechnology;

(3) A review of the current gaps and future scientific and technological needs for adversaries of the United States to be successful with respect to biotechnology capabilities; and

(4) Recommendations with respect to useful indications of any advancement of such adversaries regarding such capabilities.

Such report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

Due to the need to inform elements of the Department broadly on the needs and gaps in this technology space, we also urge the Secretary to ensure the assessment underlying the report is transmitted to other relevant offices of the Department of Defense, including the offices of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, and the Office of Net Assessment.

Sense of Congress on research and development of solid rocket motor mixing technology and the missile industrial base

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 245) that would establish a sense of Congress on the research and development of solid rocket motor mixing technologies.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We are aware of new and efficient solid rocket motor mixing technologies that could augment existing domestic production capabilities for solid rocket motors and assist in increasing the production of tactical missiles. We encourage the Department of Defense to pursue research and development of these advanced propellant mixing technologies for solid rocket motor propulsion systems.

Funding for demonstration of high-pressure waterjet cut and capture system to demilitarize underwater munitions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 246) that would increase by \$5.0 million in PE 63779A for the demonstration of high-pressure waterjet cut and capture system to demilitarize underwater munitions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Increase in funding for high-hypersonic detonation propulsion research and technology

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 249) that would increase, by \$5.0 million, the funding for high-hypersonic detonation propulsion research and technology.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Authorization of specific funding amounts can be found in the funding tables.

Increase in funding for adaptive and intelligent adversary-threat models

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 250) that would increase, by \$5.0 million, the funding for adaptive and intelligent adversary-threat models.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Authorization of specific funding amounts can be found in the funding tables.

Funding for surface and shallow water mine counter-measures

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 251) that would provide an additional \$9.0 million for surface and shallow water mine countermeasures, offset by a similar reduction from the Chalk Coral program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

The specific authorization of appropriations amounts can be found in the funding tables.

Report on potential inclusion of Israel in the national technology and industrial base

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 252) that would require the Secretary of Defense to assess the feasibility and advisability of including Israel in the national technology and industrial base.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than September 30, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of including Israel in the national technology and industrial base (NTIB). The briefing shall include but not be limited to: (1) A detailed assessment of the potential benefits or consequences of including Israel in the NTIB; (2) Any relevant security information that would create obstacles to expand NTIB; (3) Any identified gaps in NTIB that could be resolved by expanding NTIB; (4) Any other matter that the Secretary considers to be relevant. The briefing may include a classified annex.

Plan on hacking for defense expansion

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 253) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the expansion of the Hacking for Defense program of the Department of Defense over the period of three fiscal years following the date of the plan.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that elements from this provision are addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Report on potential strategic partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit and the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 254) that would require the Secretary of Defense to assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing a strategic partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit and the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense and provide a report on such assessment.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 233).

The agreement does not include either provision.

We direct the Director of the Defense Innovation Unit to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on expanding the geographic presence of the Defense Innovation Unit, including through partnerships with other organizations, not later than April 1, 2025. This report shall include the following:

(1) The current geographic distribution of the personnel and offices of the Defense Innovation Unit, including identification of the number of full-time equivalent civilians and contractors associated with each location;

(2) An assessment of opportunities to leverage other entities to expand geographic presence through current or planned partnerships that can support missions of the Defense Innovation Unit based on the existing geographic and functional footprint of those entities, such as Department of Defense laboratories, program intermediaries, university affiliated research centers, or the activities of the Hacking for Defense program;

(3) A gap analysis between planned expansion of the geographic presence of the Defense Innovation Unit and use of partnerships to achieve nationwide geographic coverage for activities of the Defense Innovation Unit;

(4) The current plan of the Director to expand the geographic presence of the Defense Innovation Unit during the next 5-year period to address the gaps analyzed pursuant to paragraph (3), including resources required and any other policy or regulatory challenges; and

(5) An assessment of both current international partnerships and opportunities to deepen and expand international partnerships, including through expansion of Hacking for Defense program activities.

Sense of Congress on the continuing need for innovation in the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 255) that would express the sense of Congress regarding the continuing need for innovation in the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the importance of a robust innovation ecosystem in strengthening our national security. The U.S. military's innovative capacity in technological areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum information sciences, advanced air mobility, and counter-UAS systems is key to maintaining and improving military readiness. We support continued expansion and

growth of innovation ecosystems for both national and economic security needs.

Funding for alternative domestic source C-130J IRSS

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 256) that would increase funding by \$6.0 million for alternative domestic sources for C-130J infrared suppression systems (IRSS), offset by a corresponding reduction in funding for operational system development, industrial base analysis and sustainment support.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

The specific authorization of appropriations amounts can be found in the funding tables.

Funding for virtual engineering for army readiness and sustainment

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 257) that would increase funding for Virtual Engineering for Army Readiness and Sustainment.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Funding for fuel cell multi-modular use utilizing hydrogen

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 259) that would increase, by \$10.0 million, the funding for Fuel Cell Multi-Modular Use Utilizing Hydrogen.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Authorization of specific funding amounts can be found in the funding tables.

Funding for humanitarian airborne mobile infrastructure capability

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 258) that would increase, by \$4.2 million, the funding for Humanitarian Airborne Mobile Infrastructure Capability.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Authorization of specific funding amounts can be found in the funding tables.

Assignment of Department of Defense responsibility for international collaboration on directed energy weapons

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 215) that would amend section 219 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) by designating the senior Department of Defense official responsible for directed energy, supported by the Joint Directed Energy Transition Office, as the office with primary responsibility for collaboration with international partners on directed energy weapons.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Prohibition on award of research or development contracts or grants to educational institutions that have violated certain civil rights

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 220) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from entering into any new contracts, or agreements, or making any new grant awards to institutions of higher education that have violated title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352) on or after 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Report on obligations and expenditure rates for basic research

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 234) that would require a report from the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller on the obligation and expenditure rates for Department of Defense basic and applied research.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that a similar reporting requirement was included in the House Report 118-529. We remain concerned with the Department of Defense's obligation and expenditure policies for basic and applied research at academic institutions given the incongruence of the academic year and the federal fiscal year. The committee urges the Department to implement expenditure benchmarks policies that consider delays in allocations to the

grantees and are more aligned with the fiscal policies and calendars of academic institutions.

Therefore, we direct the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, in coordination with the Comptrollers of the military departments and the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, on the obligation and expenditure rates for Department of Defense basic and applied research that is conducted at institutions of higher education for the previous five fiscal years. The report shall also identify:

(1) The month of obligations and expenditures for basic and applied research conducted at institutions of higher education;

(2) Funds realigned from basic or applied research budget lines due to not meeting obligations or expenditures benchmarks throughout the fiscal year and made available for other purposes; and

(3) A plan to implement revised expenditure benchmarks related to research grants at institutions of higher education.

Plan for optimization of Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 238) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a plan to optimize the contributions of the Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate in order to enable irregular warfare activities in support of the 2022 National Defense Strategy.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for optimizing the contributions of the Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate to the fulfillment of Department of Defense irregular warfare activities in support of the National Defense Strategy. At a minimum, the plan shall address efforts to more effectively—

(1) Address emergent requirements within the year of execution;

(2) Lessons learned from ongoing conflicts where the U.S. is not a direct participant, if feasible;

(3) Focus and prioritize resources to rapidly address Department of Defense user requirements;

(4) Coordinate efforts with the Office of Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics of U.S. Special Operations Command;

(5) Maximize contributions from foreign and non-Department of Defense partners; and

(6) Address other matters deemed relevant by the Secretary.

Directed Energy Roadmap and Activity Funding Report

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 247) that would amend section 219(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) to require a Directed Energy Roadmap and Activity Funding Report annually until 2031.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Pilot program on establishing entities and consortia to conduct prototyping and production of critical and emerging technologies

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 248) that would require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program to establish one or more entities, including consortia, to conduct prototyping and production activities for such critical and emerging technologies as the Secretary shall specify and require the Secretary to use other transaction authority to carry out the program pursuant section 4022 of title 10, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We encourage the Department of Defense to use other transaction authority (OTAs), including through consortia, to conduct prototyping and production activities for the Department's 14 critical technology areas. We note that unlike Federal Acquisition Regulation-based contracts, the Department is not required to track the type of business performing on an OTA. We note that elsewhere in this Act we are directing the Department to track awards made through OTAs to provide a better understanding of the types of businesses performing on OTAs.

Report on status of reusable hypersonic technology development activities

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5232) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on

the status of reusable hypersonic technology development activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than June 15, 2025, to the congressional defense committees on the status of reusable hypersonic technology development activities in the Department of Defense, including the High Mach Turbine Engine. The briefing should include:

(1) A proposed organizational structure for management of a reusable hypersonic aircraft development program;

(2) An assessment of requirements and timeframe to formalize such proposed organizational structure; and

(3) A cost estimate and timeline for testing key enabling technologies and programs.

Prohibition on research or development of cell culture and other novel methods used for the production of cultivated meat

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5233) that would prohibit the use of funds for the research or development of cell culture or any other novel method used for the production of cultivated meat for human consumption.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

TITLE III—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

SUBTITLE A—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 301 - Authorization of appropriations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 301) that would authorize appropriations for operation and maintenance activities at the levels identified in section 4301 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 301).

The agreement includes this provision.

SUBTITLE B—ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Sec. 311 - Modification of definition of antenna structure project under Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Clearinghouse for review of mission obstructions

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 313) that would amend section 183a(h)(2)(A)(ii) of title 10, United States Code, to address a technical correction.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 312 - Extension of period for cooperative agreements under Native American lands environmental mitigation program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 320) that would extend the period for cooperative agreements under Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program by 3 years.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 313 - Extension of requirement to establish a schedule of black start exercises to assess the energy resilience and energy security of military installations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 311) that would extend the requirement to conduct black start exercises from 2027 to 2032.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 314 - Change in timeframe for report on ability of Department of Defense to meet requirements for energy resilience and energy security measures on military installations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 342) that would amend the reporting requirement year in section 2029(g) of title 10, United States Code, by striking 2029 and inserting 2027.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 315 - Repeal of limitation on procurement of drop-in fuels; annual report

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 317) that would repeal section 2922h of title 10, United

States Code, and require the Secretary of Defense to submit an annual report if a bulk purchase of drop-in fuel was not cost-competitive with traditional fuel, and if the purchase was based on a military requirement or not.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 316 - Extension of prohibition on required disclosure

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 312) that would extend the prohibition on required disclosure by prime contractors for 5 years.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would extend the prohibition by 2 years.

Sec. 317 - Increase of transfer authority for funding of study and assessment on health implications of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination in drinking water by Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 322) that would extend to fiscal year 2025 the authorization and funding transfer authority for the ongoing study and assessment on human health impacts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 318 - Initiative to control and combat the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetle in Hawaii

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 315) that would authorize and direct the Secretary of Defense to enhance efforts to support the control, interdiction, research, and eradication efforts related to the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on military installations in Hawaii.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment to clarify that interagency and intergovernmental response efforts to control, interdict, monitor, and eradicate the CRB are for military installations in Hawaii.

Sec. 319 - Prohibition on implementation of regulation relating to minimizing risk of climate change

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 318) that would prohibit funds from being used by the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2025 to finalize or implement any rule based on the advanced notice of the proposed rulemaking titled ``Federal Acquisition Regulation: Minimizing the Risk of Climate Change in Federal Acquisitions.''

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 320 - Implementation of Inspector General recommendations relating to oversight of defense fuel support points

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 311) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to implement the recommendations of the Department of Defense Inspector General report, published April 11, 2024, titled, "Audit of the Defense Logistics Agency Oversight of Defense Fuel Support Points" (DODIG-2024-075), not later than May 1, 2026, or report explaining why the Secretary has not implemented those recommendations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 321 - Provision by Secretary of the Air Force of meteorological data for Air Force and Army

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 314) that would clarify that the Secretary of the Air Force is required to provide meteorological and environmental services for the Department of the Air Force and meteorological services for the Department of the Army.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE C—LOGISTICS AND SUSTAINMENT

Sec. 331 - Joint Safety Council report and briefing requirements

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 341) that would amend section 185 of title 10, United States Code, to require biannual briefings from the Joint Safety Council that includes releasable information regarding any mishap that occurred during

such year and identification of any corrective or preventative action implemented pursuant to a recommendation made in a safety or legal investigation report of such a mishap.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 332 - Modifications to Comptroller General annual reviews of F-35 sustainment efforts

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 343) that would amend section 357 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) regarding the Comptroller General of the United States' annual reviews of the F-35 by extending the reporting period and adding sustainment considerations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 333 - Plans regarding condition and maintenance of prepositioned stockpiles of Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 331) that would require the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force to develop a plan to improve inspection procedures of prepositioned stockpiles and conduct biannual inspections of these prepositioned stockpiles.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 334 - Warehouse utilization organization alignment

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 331) that would require each Secretary of a military department, and the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency, to provide a briefing on warehouse utilization and organizational alignment.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 335 - Authority for Government-owned, Government-operated facilities to access production base support funds

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 332) that would require the Secretary of Defense to prescribe regulations allowing Government-owned, Government-operated facilities to be eligible to receive Production Base Support funds from the U.S. Army.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 336 - Pre-positioned stocks of finished defense textile articles

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 356) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish pre-positioned stocks of finished defense textile articles needed to support a contingency operation.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE D—REPORTS

Sec. 341 - Modification of readiness reports to include total number of combat readiness upgrades or downgrades

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 341) that would amend paragraph (5) of section 482(b) of title 10, United States Code, to modify the readiness reports to Congress to include the total number of upgrades or downgrades of the combat readiness of a unit issued by the unit commander, rather than each unit summary with the rationale from each reporting unit commander.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 342 - Extension and expansion of incident reporting requirements for Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 342) that would extend the incident reporting requirement regarding lost and stolen weapons and include the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 343 - Annual briefing on operational readiness of 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron prior to commencement of official hurricane season

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 344) that would require the commanding officer of the 22nd Air Force to provide a briefing on the operational readiness of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

SUBTITLE E—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 351 - Extension of authority for Secretary of Defense to use Department of Defense reimbursement rate for transportation services provided to certain non-Department of Defense entities

The budget request for fiscal year 2025 included a proposal to extend the authority, granted in section 2642 of title 10, United States Code, allowing the Secretary of Defense to use the Department of Defense (DOD) reimbursement rate for transportation services provided to certain non-DOD entities. That authority allows DOD to provide transportation services covered by that section at the same rate DOD charges DOD units for similar services. The proposal requested a change in the sunset date from October 1, 2024, to October 1, 2029.

The agreement includes a provision that would extend the sunset date of this authority from October 1, 2024, to October 1, 2026. Furthermore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than April 1, 2025, on how the Department uses this authority, the need for an extension, and any other information the Secretary deems relevant.

Sec. 352 - Improvements to FireGuard Program of National Guard

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5351) that would allow the Secretary of Defense to enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with a qualified individual or entity to carry out the duties of the FireGuard Program.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 353 - Counter unmanned aerial system threat library

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 335) that would require the Secretary of the Army, through the Joint Counter-small Unmanned Aerial Systems Office, to establish and maintain a threat library, or expand and maintain an existing library, to coordinate efforts across the Department of Defense to counter unmanned aerial systems.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 354 - Limitation on availability of funds for travel expenses of Office of Secretary of Defense until submission of certain documents

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 353) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of more than 75 percent of certain funds authorized for travel expenses for the Office of the Secretary of Defense until the Secretary provides to the congressional defense committees certain outstanding reporting requirements.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 355 - Anti-lock brake system and electronic stability control kit for certain Army vehicles

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 354) that would require the Secretary of the Army to develop a plan to ensure that all high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles identified in the Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Strategy have been retrofitted with an anti-lock brake system and electronic stability control kit.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would modify the requirement to ensure that all high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles are equipped with anti-lock brake system and electronic stability control kit and extend the timeline to complete the requirement.

Sec. 356 - Program for advanced manufacturing in the Indo-Pacific region

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1082) that would establish a pilot program to develop forward advanced manufacturing capability in and for the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 357).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Modifications to pilot program on use of sustainable aviation fuel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 313) that would amend the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Pilot Program from the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) to ensure the Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Technologies model is used to measure greenhouse gas emissions reductions under the program, promoting increased accuracy in measurements and preventing the exclusion of domestic, agricultural biofuels from the program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 315).

The agreement does not include either provision.

Modification of temporary moratorium on incineration by Department of Defense of perfluoroalkyl substances, polyfluoroalkyl substances, and aqueous film forming foam

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 314) that would amend Section 343(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) and end the moratorium on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) destruction by allowing the Department of Defense to follow the recent guidance put out by the Environmental Protection Agency with regard to the destruction of PFAS.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We strongly encourage the Department of Defense to issue appropriate guidance related to the destruction of PFAS, in accordance with section 343(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81).

Review and plan regarding biosecurity protocols for Hawaii

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 316) that would direct the Department of Defense to review its biosecurity protocols in Hawaii to prevent the introduction and spread of

invasive species and would also direct the Department to create a plan to improve biosecurity protocols in Hawaii and improve coordination with state and local entities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Pilot program to install propane-powered generators at a domestic defense industrial base facility

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 317) that would establish a pilot program to install propane-powered generators at a qualified domestic organic defense industrial base facility.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than April 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a pilot program to install propane-powered generators at a domestic organic defense industrial base facility. The briefing should include information on current backup power capabilities at installations, any necessary supply and storage infrastructure requirements, any benefits to the resiliency and redundancy of power generation, any costs associated with establishing the pilot, and any other advantages and disadvantages that the Secretary deems relevant.

Stormwater discharge permits for Department of Defense facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 319) that would require the Secretary of Defense to request updated storm water management system permits from the appropriate authorities to allow for best practices to be implemented at storm water outflows and prevent per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances discharge from Department of Defense facilities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Pilot program on improving Marine Corps supply chain and logistics through the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning software solutions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 332) that would require the Commandant of the Marine Corps to establish a pilot program in the Marine Corps to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) solutions to solve supply chain and logistics challenges.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that such activities leveraging AI and ML solutions could greatly benefit the Marine Corps by potentially driving down costs and timelines associated with supply chain and logistics challenges. We are aware of numerous commercially developed solutions that could be leveraged to address Marine Corps needs. We encourage the Marine Corps to continue testing and evaluating AI/ML solutions to help address these types of problem sets.

Responsiveness testing of Defense Logistics Agency pharmaceutical contracts

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 333) that would require the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to amend DLA Instructions 5025.03 and 3110.01 to require DLA Troop Support to coordinate annually with customers in the military departments to conduct responsiveness testing of the DLA's contingency contracts for pharmaceuticals and to include the results of that testing, as reported by customers in the military departments, in the annual reports of the Warstopper Program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We encourage the DLA to require DLA Troop Support to coordinate annually with customers in the military departments to conduct responsiveness testing of the DLA's contingency contracts for pharmaceuticals and to include the results of that testing, as reported by customers in the military departments, in the annual reports of the Warstopper Program.

Investment plan for Department of Defense depots and industrial facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 334) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of each of the military departments, to submit an investment plan that includes detailed information about the minimum annual investment in Department of Defense depots and

industrial facilities that is needed to prevent further infrastructure deterioration.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the minimum required annual investments across the future years defense program to arrest further facilities deterioration in government-owned, government-operated depots and industrial facilities that maintain critical equipment and weapons systems. We note the existing requirement in section 2473 of title 10, United States Code, for the secretaries of the military departments to provide annual five-year plans on improvement of depot infrastructure so as to encourage prudent and timely investment. We commend the Department of the Army for their use of this tool to successfully advocate for infrastructure improvements and encourage the other services to follow suit.

Study on firefighter rapid intervention team training and equipment at Department of Defense facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 344) that would require the Department of Defense to conduct a study on the training and equipment of firefighter Rapid Intervention Teams on military facilities to ensure that such teams have up-to-date training and equipment on different crisis scenarios, including port facility fires.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than September 30, 2025, on the training standards for firefighter rapid intervention teams and the use of equipment by such teams at military installations. The briefing shall include: (1) The extent to which, if any, such training and equipment is standard across firefighter rapid response intervention teams on military installations; (2) Whether such training and equipment is sufficient to prepare such teams for fires on ships that dock at military installations; and (3) A description of any incident, if any, that occurred in the last 10 years in which a firefighter was injured or killed at a military installation and could have been

prevented had the firefighters involved received different training or equipment.

Joint Safety Council review of Comptroller General report on fatigue of members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 345) that would require the Joint Safety Council to review Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports on addressing servicemember fatigue and provide a briefing on steps to address the GAO's findings.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Joint Safety Council (JSC), established under section 185 of title 10, United States Code, to review the issues identified in the report of the Comptroller General of the United States titled "Military Readiness: Comprehensive Approach Needed to Address Service Member Fatigue and Manage Related Efforts" (GAO-24-105917) and provide a briefing, not later than September 1, 2025, to congressional defense committees on steps the JSC is taking to address the findings of the Comptroller General and to reinvigorate efforts to limit the fatigue of members of the Armed Forces. The briefing shall include JSC actions taken related to:

- (1) Insufficient oversight authority at the Department of Defense level;
- (2) A lack of assigned leadership on fatigue-related matters within the Armed Forces; and
- (3) Fragmented fatigue-related research efforts across the Department.

Study on use and presence of toxic chemicals in Panama Canal Zone

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 346) that would require the Armed Forces Pest Management Board to conduct a study on the use and presence of herbicide agents and toxic chemicals by the Department in the Panama Canal Zone during the period beginning on January 1, 1958, and ending on December 31, 1999.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and

the House of Representatives on the use and presence of herbicide agents as a result of Department of Defense activities in the Panama Canal Zone between January 1, 1958 and December 31, 1999. The briefing shall include an assessment to determine the degree to which herbicide agents, including those known as "rainbow herbicides", were used, tested, stored, or otherwise dispensed within the Panama Canal Zone while servicemembers were stationed there, as well as any adverse impact on servicemembers by the use of such herbicide agents.

Report on wildfire fighting capabilities of the Department of Defense in Hawaii

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 347) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on wildfire fighting capabilities of the Department of Defense in Hawaii.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025 with an assessment of the wildfire fighting capabilities of the Department of Defense in Hawaii, including any shortfalls in firefighting equipment, facilities, training, plans, or personnel. The briefing shall include a determination of the feasibility and advisability of establishing a wildfire training institute on Oahu, an identification of any additional authorities or resources required to integrate the capabilities of the Department of Defense with the capabilities of other Federal, State, and local emergency responders, and an identification of any memoranda or other agreements between the Department and State, local, Federal, or other disaster response organizations regarding wildland fire mitigation, prevention, response, and recovery.

Briefing on Army organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 348) that would require the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing on the modernization and sustainment plans of the Army for organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Senate report accompanying S.4638 (S. Rept. 118-188) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 already directed a briefing requirement on the modernization and sustainment plans of the Army for organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments. We direct the Army to include the House Committee on Armed Services as a recipient of this briefing requirement.

Provision of sports foods and third-party certified dietary supplements to members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 352) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to use appropriated funds to procure sports foods and third-party certified dietary supplements and distribute such foods and supplements to members of the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Funding for base support

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 353) that would increase, by \$5.0 million, the funding for base support.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Availability of operation and maintenance appropriations for software

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 354) that would amend section 2241(a) of title 10, United States Code, to add a new paragraph that would allow for operations and maintenance funds to be used for acquisition, development, modification, and sustainment of software.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Initiative to control and combat the spread of invasive species

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 312) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enhance efforts to manage, control, and interdict invasive species that exacerbate the risk of wildfire that could affect

the readiness of the Armed Forces, the health and safety of servicemembers, and their families and surrounding communities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of the Department of Defense enhancing efforts through the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans and other relevant management and operational plans to manage, control, and interdict invasive species, including those that exacerbate the risk of wildfire, that could affect the readiness of the Armed Forces and the health and safety of servicemembers and their families. The briefing shall include: (1) the feasibility and advisability of additional resources and funding for Department of Defense activities in support of managing, controlling, and interdicting invasive species; (2) a review of current Department of Defense protocols and procedures, including gaps and differences between military installations, for biosecurity and efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species on military installations; (3) options to establish early detection and rapid response mechanisms to monitor and deploy coordinated interdiction efforts for any invasive species newly detected on military installations; and (4) a review of post-fire land rehabilitation efforts using native vegetation and other methods to preclude the reestablishment of invasive species.

Study and report on the greenhouse gas and toxic pollutant emissions of the production and utilization of non-tactical vehicles of the Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 316) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the greenhouse gas and toxic pollutant emissions lifecycle in the production and use of electric non-tactical vehicles over the lifetime of the vehicle relative to a comparable model of non-tactical vehicles possessing an internal combustion engine and require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the aforementioned study.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct and submit to the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives a study on the greenhouse gas and toxic pollutant emissions lifecycle in the

production and utilization of electric non-tactical vehicles over the lifetime of the vehicle relative to a comparable model of non-tactical vehicle possessing an internal combustion engine. Such study shall include: (1) the estimated reduction in carbon emissions associated with the adoption of electric vehicles across the non-tactical vehicle fleet; (2) a comparative analysis of non-tactical efficiency, maintenance costs, and lifecycle emissions of electric vehicles versus traditional combustion engine vehicles; and (3) a cost-benefit analysis of investing in electric vehicle infrastructure compared to the fully burdened costs, advantages, and disadvantages of internal combustion engines for non-tactical use by the Department of Defense.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 120 days after the Comptroller General's completion of the study to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the use of non-tactical electric vehicles by the Armed Forces, which shall include: (1) an assessment of non-tactical vehicle capabilities to determine different mission profiles and scenarios supported by electric vehicles and internal combustion vehicles; (2) an estimation of the expected lifespan and durability of electric vehicles under non-tactical conditions, including an evaluation of maintenance requirements and costs associated with the lifetime of the vehicle; (3) an evaluation of the logistical implications of integrating electric vehicles into the non-tactical vehicle fleet, including infrastructure requirements for charging or refueling, compatibility with existing supply chains, and potential challenges relating to spare parts availability and maintenance support; and (4) an identification of risks and challenges associated with the procurement and deployment of electric vehicles, such as technological obsolescence, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and geopolitical dependencies on critical components.

Interim responses to address releases or threatened releases of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 321) that would codify existing Department of Defense policy for the military services to take action to address any release or threatened release of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Plan for secondary sources in the munitions supply chain

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 334) that would require the Secretary of the Army to develop a plan to provide options to establish secondary domestic production sources at existing arsenals, depots, and ammunition plants of the U.S. Army to address munition supply chain chokepoints.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Army to provide a plan providing options to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, to establish secondary domestic production sources at existing arsenals, depots, and ammunition plants of the U.S. Army to address munition supply chain chokepoints. The plan shall draw on existing supply chain mapping conducted by the Department of Defense and other studies conducted by the U.S. Army. The plan shall include an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of expanding the scope of activities at all existing depots, arsenals, and ammunition plants of the U.S. Army to serve as secondary sources for single points of supply chain failure and reopening of any previously closed depots, arsenals, and ammunition plants of the U.S. Army.

Extension of protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 352) that would amend section 130i of title 10, United States Code, to extend the sunset date of the authority of the Department of Defense to counter threats from unmanned aerial systems to United States military forces and facilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Coordination of planning with respect to stockpiles of basic life sustaining and personnel items and equipment

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 355) that would require the Department of Defense to assess whether stockpiles of basic life sustaining personnel items and equipment are sufficient in the event of a protracted conflict scenario.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in coordination with the Chairman

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and each equivalent acquisition officer of the military departments, to conduct an assessment of: (1) Whether total force stockpiles of basic life sustaining personnel items and equipment, as listed below, are sufficient in the event of direct involvement by the United States in a protracted conflict or in more than one large-scale conflict taking place simultaneously in more than one theater; (2) The likely impact on supply chains of procurement by the Department of said items and equipment in a situation so described; and (3) Whether current operational plans of the Armed Forces can be executed in two separate theaters simultaneously without drawing on the same stockpiles of basic life sustaining and personnel items and equipment.

The basic life sustaining personnel items and equipment included in the assessment shall include: (1) Subsistence items, including food and food-related supplies, including condiments, utensils, paper products, and bottled water; (2) Clothing, individual equipment, tentage, organizational tool kits, hand tools, and administrative and housekeeping supplies and equipment; (3) Personal demand items that are non-military sales items; and (4) Such other items as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff may identify.

Upon completion of the assessment, we direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to jointly submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the findings and determinations made pursuant to the required assessment. The report shall include at a minimum the availability of stockpiles of weather and terrain appropriate tires for tactical vehicles, as well as mobile extreme weather shelters for maintenance of military vehicles.

The term "protracted conflict" means any armed conflict that extends beyond anticipated timelines set forth or implied in strategic planning documents or operational plans, such that the cumulative effects of hostilities result in the military goals set forth in strategic plans no longer being sufficient to end the conflict.

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

SUBTITLE A—ACTIVE FORCES

Sec. 401 - End strengths for active forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 401) that would authorize Active-Duty end strength as of September 30, 2025 as

follows: Army, 442,300; Navy, 332,300; Marine Corps, 172,300; Air Force, 320,000; and Space Force, 9,800.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 401).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 402 - Annual end-strength authorization for the Space Force

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 402) that would require Space Force end strength authorization to consist of a single number for Space Force active status members; and make corresponding technical and conforming amendments.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 403 - Temporary exclusion of mental health care providers from authorized strengths of certain officers on active duty

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1831) that would amend section 523(b) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Department of Defense to exclude certain health care providers from authorized end strengths under such section.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would make the end strength exclusion temporary; and require the Secretary of Defense to provide a legislative proposal to eliminate permanent exclusions to end strength determinations under section 523 of title 10, United States Code.

SUBTITLE B—RESERVE FORCES

Sec. 411 - End strengths for Selected Reserve

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 411) that would authorize end strengths for Selected Reserve personnel, including the end strength for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves, as of September 30, 2025 as follows: Army National Guard, 325,000; Army Reserve, 175,800; Navy Reserve, 57,700; Marine Corps Reserve, 32,500; Air National Guard, 107,700; Air Force Reserve, 67,000; and Coast Guard Reserve, 7,000.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 411) that would authorize end strengths for Selected Reserve personnel, including the end strength for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves, as of September 30, 2025 as follows: Army National Guard, 325,000; Army Reserve, 175,800; Navy Reserve, 57,700; Marine Corps Reserve, 32,500; Air National Guard, 108,300; Air Force Reserve, 67,000; and Coast Guard Reserve, 7,000.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 412 - End strengths for Reserves on active duty in support of the Reserves

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 412) that would authorize end strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves as of September 30, 2025 as follows: Army National Guard, 30,845; Army Reserve, 16,511; Navy Reserve, 10,132; Marine Corps Reserve, 2,400; Air National Guard, 25,736; Air Force Reserve, 6,311.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 412) that would authorize full-time support end strengths as of September 30, 2025 as follows: Army National Guard, 30,845; Army Reserve, 16,511; Navy Reserve, 10,132; Marine Corps Reserve, 2,400; Air National Guard, 25,982; Air Force Reserve, 6,311.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 413 - End strengths for military technicians (dual status)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 413) that would authorize end strengths for military technicians (dual status) as of September 30, 2025 as follows: Army National Guard, 22,294; Army Reserve, 6,492; Air National Guard, 10,744; Air Force Reserve, 6,697.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 413) that would authorize end strengths for military technicians (dual status) as of September 30, 2025 as follows: Army National Guard, 22,294; Army Reserve, 6,492; Air National Guard, 10,744; Air Force Reserve, 6,697. The Senate provision would also limit the number of temporary military technicians (dual status) to 25 percent of the authorized end strength and prohibit a state from coercing military technicians into accepting an offer of realignment or conversion to any other military status— including as a member of the Active, Guard, and Reserve program of a reserve component.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 414 - Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 414) that would authorize— as required under section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code— the maximum number of Reserve Component personnel who may be on Active Duty or full-time National Guard duty during fiscal year 2025 for operational support.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 414).

The agreement includes this provision.

SUBTITLE C—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 421 - Military personnel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 421) that would authorize appropriations for military personnel at the levels identified in the funding table in section 4401 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 421).

The agreement includes this provision.

SUBTITLE D—REPORTS

Sec. 431 - Annual defense manpower profile report: expansion of justifications for end strengths

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 431) that would amend section 115a of title 10, United States Code, to add new requirements in the annual defense manual profile report as follows: an assessment of the most important threats facing the United States and an explanation of how personnel end strength requests address such threats; the rationale for recommended changes in manpower in the Department of Defense and for each of the geographic combatant commands, respectively; the primary functions or missions of active, reserve, and civilian personnel in each geographic command; an assessment of any areas in which decreases in end strength would not result in decreases in readiness; the actual end strength number for each Armed Service for the prior fiscal year; the percentage shortfall in recruiting by each Armed Service; and the actual number of candidates for service in the Armed Services who were deemed ineligible due to current enlistment standards.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would strike new requirements related to end strength of geographic combatant commands and the actual numbers of candidates whom the Department of Defense deemed ineligible. The amendment would also require certain additional reporting requirements to be linked to the national defense strategy under section 113 of title 10, United States Code.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Exemption of National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers from active-duty end strength limits and modification of annual reporting requirement regarding security cooperation activities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 415) that would amend section 115 of title 10, United States Code, to exempt members of the National Guard who serve as bilateral affairs officers as a part of the National Guard State Partnership Program from end strength requirements under such section; and amend section 386 of title 10, United States Code, to specify the congressional committees to whom the Secretary of Defense must submit an annual report under such section.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

SUBTITLE A—OFFICER POLICY

Sec. 501 - Redistribution of general officers of the Marine Corps on active duty

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 502) that would amend section 525 (a) (4) of title 10, United States Code, to increase the maximum number of general officers in the Marine Corps authorized to serve above the grade of major general from 17 to 18, and would reduce the maximum number of general officers in the Marine Corps authorized to serve in the grade of major general from 22 to 21.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

We note that this provision would not increase the overall number of general officers authorized for the Marine Corps. Furthermore, the inclusion of this provision does not signify any future interest in increasing the authorization for Marine Corps general officers.

Sec. 502 - Authority to exclude additional positions from limitations on the number of general officers and flag officers on active duty

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 504) that would amend section 526 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to designate up to 45 general and flag officer positions for exclusion from the limitations on general and flag officer authorizations in section 525(a) of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would authorize the Secretary to designate up to 35 general and flag officer positions for exclusion from the limitations on general and flag officer authorizations.

Sec. 503 - Eligibility for consideration for promotion: time-in-grade and other requirements

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 505) that would amend sections 577, 619, and 14301 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretaries of the military departments concerned to preclude from consideration by a promotion selection board officers and warrant officers who have an established retirement date that is within 90 days after the date the selection board is convened.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 504 - Temporary authority to increase the number of nurse officers recommended for promotion

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 503) that would authorize promotion boards to recommend for promotion more than 95 percent, but less than 100 percent, of nurse officers eligible for promotion to major or lieutenant commander if the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that the greater number is necessary to maintain or

improve medical readiness. This authority would expire on December 31, 2030.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 505 - Talent management and personnel retention for members of the Armed Forces

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 502) that would amend sections 619 and 14301 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretaries of the military departments to approve requests by officers to opt out of consideration for promotion, without penalty, due to long initial training pipelines.

The provision would also amend sections 631, 632, 8372, 14504, 14505, and 14506 of title 10, United States Code, to change the mandatory separation date for officers who fail for selection for promotion to the next higher grade for the second time to the first day of the seventh calendar month beginning after the month in which the Secretary concerned publicly releases the promotion board selection results.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 506 - Consideration of merit by special selection review boards

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 508) that would amend sections 628a and 14502a of title 10, United States Code, to allow special selection review boards (SSRB) to sustain a promotion board's selection of an officer who is the subject of credible information of an adverse nature when such officer ranks in the top half of an order of merit development by the SSRB. The officer's qualifications would still be required to be comparable in qualification for promotion to those sample officers who were recommended for promotion by that promotion board.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 507 - Effect of failure of selection for promotion: captains and majors of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force and lieutenants and lieutenant commanders of the Navy

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 506) that would amend section 632(c) of title 10, United States Code, to require the retention on Active Duty of officers otherwise subject to separation for failure for selection for promotion until completion of the officer's Active-Duty service obligation. The provision would also authorize the Secretary of the military department concerned to waive this requirement if the Secretary determines that completion of the Active-Duty service obligation of that officer is not in the best interest of the service.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 508 - Modification of authority to separate officers when in the best interest of the service

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 506) that would amend section 1182 of title 10, United States Code, to modify the authority under that section to separate officers under certain circumstances when such separation is in the best interests of the military service.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 509).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 509 - Remote appearance before a board of inquiry

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 537) that would amend sections 1185 and 14904 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretaries of the military departments to permit, in exceptional circumstances, the appearance of an officer before a board of inquiry other than in person, such as by video teleconferencing.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 509A - Marine Corps Deputy Commandants

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 521) that would amend section 8045 of title 10, United States Code, to increase the number of authorized Marine Corps Deputy Commandants from seven to eight.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 509B - Improvements relating to Medical Officer of the Marine Corps position

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 508) that would establish a Medical Officer of the Marine Corps appointed from among flag officers of the Navy.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 509A) that would amend chapter 806 and section 525 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Navy to appoint a Navy rear admiral as the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps and exclude this position from flag officer and active duty strength limitations.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 509C - Vice Chief of Space Operations; vacancy in position of Chief of Space Operations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 504) that would amend chapter 908 of title 10, United States Code, to establish the position of the Vice Chief of Space Operations who will serve in the grade of general. The provision would also provide that the Vice Chief of Space Operations would perform the duties of the Chief of Space Operations during a vacancy in the position of Chief of Space Operations and during the absence of the Chief of Space Operations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 509D - Repeal of active duty service requirement for warrant officer appointments in Air Force and Space Force

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 509) that would repeal section 9160 of title 10, United States Code, which requires 1 year of Active-Duty service for original appointment as a warrant officer in the Department of the Air Force.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 501).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 509E - Removal of officers from a list of Space Force officers recommended for promotion

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 507) that would amend section 20241 of title 10, United States Code, to extend to the Space Force certain restrictions

pertaining to removal of officers from a list of officers recommended for promotion.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 509F - Pilot program on peer and subordinate assessments of certain officers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 509A) that would require the Secretary concerned, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, to implement a 5-year pilot program in which certain covered officers of the Armed Forces are assessed by peers and subordinates. The provision would also require the Secretaries concerned to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding such pilot program not later than 3 months after the termination of such program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would make various technical and conforming amendments to the House provision.

SUBTITLE B—RESERVE COMPONENT MANAGEMENT

Sec. 511 - Authority to extend military technicians until age 62

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 513) that would amend sections 10216(f) and 14702(b) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the retention of military technicians to age 62, rather than age 60 as authorized in current law. This change aligns authority to retain military technicians with recent changes that allow drill status national guardsmen to be retained until age 62, and supports the retention of experienced military technicians.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 512 - Extension of time period for transfer or discharge of certain Army and Air Force reserve component general officers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 514) that would amend section 14314 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize Army and Air Force reserve component general officers to continue serving in an active status or on active duty for up to 60 days after ceasing to occupy a general officer position.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 514).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 513 - Expanded authority to continue reserve component officers in certain military specialties on the reserve active-status list

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 512) that would amend section 14701(a) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretaries of the military departments to selectively continue on the reserve Active-Status list, for up to 40 years of commissioned service, Reserve component officers above the grade of O-2 in designated military specialties.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 512).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 514 - Transfer to the Space Force of covered space functions of the Air National Guard of the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 521) that would allow the Secretary of the Air Force, during the transition period, to transfer to the Space Force the covered space functions of the Air National Guard of the United States, subject to section 104 of title 32, United States Code, and section 18238 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 515) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to transfer such covered space functions to the Space Force without regard to section 104 of title 32, United States Code, and section 18238 of title 10, United States Code.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with technical amendments.

The April 2024 Department of the Air Force report titled "Report on the Feasibility of the Consolidation or Transfer of Space Functions of the National Guard to the Space Force" did not include the 222nd Command and Control Squadron as a "covered space function." We direct the Secretary of the Air Force, in consultation with the Chief of Space Operations, the Director of the National Reconnaissance Organization (NRO), the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and the Director of the Air National Guard, to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, that assesses the organizational future of the 222nd, focusing on options that ensure the unit's continued support to the NRO while accounting

for its broader integration into U.S. space missions. The report shall include an assessment of the following three potential arrangements:

- (1) Transfer to the United States Space Force;
- (2) Retention within the Air National Guard. This option should assess the feasibility of keeping the 222nd within the Air National Guard and the measures necessary to preserve and enhance its space-related mission in support of the NRO, including any necessary agreements between the 222nd, the National Guard Bureau, and the Space Force; and
- (3) Establishment of a hybrid structure involving Both Space Force and Air National Guard Personnel. This option should consider the establishment of a hybrid structure that would combine Space Force and Air National Guard personnel maintain the unique strengths of both organizations.

Sec. 515 - Notice to Congress regarding reapportionment of National Guard force structure

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 516) that would authorize the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to exempt any State National Guard from the National Guard Bureau's leveling initiative within the Air National Guard.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, in consultation with the service secretary concerned, to provide notice to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives at least 60 days in advance of a reapportionment of National Guard force structure, together with a description of the details of the proposed reapportionment.

**SUBTITLE C—GENERAL SERVICE AUTHORITIES,
DECORATIONS AND AWARDS, AND MILITARY
RECORDS**

Sec. 521 - Technical and conforming amendments relating to members of the Space Force

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 525) that would make technical and conforming amendments related to the Space Force to various sections of titles 10 and 37, United States Code, and to footnote 2 of the table titled "ENLISTED MEMBERS" in section 601 of the John Warner National

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a conforming amendment.

Sec. 522 - Modified authority to provide protection to senior leaders of the Department of Defense and other specified persons

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 526) that would amend section 714 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the provision of protective services for former senior leaders of the Department of Defense and other specified persons outside of the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would authorize Secretary of Defense to delegate the authority under section 714 to a level not lower than the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, permit temporary protection under certain circumstances while a final decision is pending, and update congressional notice requirements.

Sec. 523 - Improving military administrative review

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 528) that would amend section 1552 of title 10, United States Code, to require publicly available final decisions of the boards for the correction of military records to include a summary of each decision and to be indexed by subject matter.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would establish the effective date of the provision as October 1, 2026.

Sec. 524 - Determination of active duty service commitment for recipients of fellowships, grants, and scholarships

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 552) that would amend section 2603(b) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretaries of the military departments to determine the Active-Duty service obligations for certain members on Active Duty who receive fellowships, grants, and scholarships.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would establish a minimum Active-Duty service

commitment for officers who are recipients of fellowships, grants, and scholarships.

Sec. 525 - Authority to designate certain separated members of the Air Force as honorary separated members of the Space Force

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 522) that would amend chapter 933 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new section that would authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to designate certain separated members of the Air Force as Legacy Guardians.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 526 - Authorizations for certain awards

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 593) that would waive the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Roderick W. Edmonds for acts of valor while serving in the Army in World War II; and to authorize the President to award the Distinguished Service Cross to William D. Owens for acts of valor while serving in the Army in World War II.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would waive the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Mr. Roddie Edmonds for his valorous actions as then-Master Sergeant Edmonds from January 27 to March 30, 1945.

Sec. 527 - Posthumous advancement of General John D. Lavelle, United States Air Force, on the retired list

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 526) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue a recommendation to the President and the Senate regarding the restoration of the retired rank of Major General John D. Lavelle based on the most recent recommendation of the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a related provision (sec. 592) that would authorize the advancement of Major General Lavelle on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general. The Senate provision is consistent with, and implements the recommendation of, the report of the Honorable

William Webster, who after an extensive review of the historical record and Major General Lavelle's service, recommended that he be advanced on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE D—RECRUITMENT

Sec. 531 - Expansion of report on future servicemember preparatory course

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 539) that would amend section 546(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) by adding additional reporting requirements from the Secretary concerned about the efficacy of the future servicemember preparatory course implemented under such section and any proposed improvements to such preparatory course.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 551) that would amend section 546(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to modify the graduation requirements for a future servicemember preparatory course established under such section.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would fully incorporate the requirements of the Senate provision.

Sec. 532 - Promoting military, national, and public service

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 599A) that would amend section 15 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 USC 3813) to update the types of information that the Department of Defense may obtain from the Selective Service System.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 533 - Military recruiter physical access to campuses

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 537) that would amend subpart 2 of Part F of title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7901 et seq.) by inserting a new section to require local educational agencies to provide military recruiters the same access to the campus of each secondary school that is provided to any prospective employer, institution of higher education, or other recruiter.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 595).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would substitute the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives for the Secretary of Education as the designated recipient of annual reporting requirements related to compliance with the provision.

Sec. 534 - Military Entrance Processing Command: acceleration of review of medical records

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 597) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to develop a 2-year pilot program for joint reserve component support to the United States Military Entrance Processing Command (MEPS) to accelerate the review of recruit medical records.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to implement a program to use health care providers from any component of the Armed Forces to support MEPS by reviewing prospective recruit medical records and to issue a briefing and a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding such program.

Sec. 535 - Medical Accession Records Pilot program: notice of termination

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 597A) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a review of military accession standards, and any ongoing plans to modify them, to the congressional defense committees not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to notify the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives at least 1 year prior to terminating the Medical Accessions Records Pilot program.

Sec. 536 - Provision of information regarding Federal service to certain persons ineligible to enlist in certain Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 592) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue regulations within 180

days of the enactment of this Act directing the service secretaries to provide to individuals unqualified to enlist in the Armed Forces information concerning other Federal service for which they may be qualified.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 599B) that would require Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, by not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, to develop and begin offering a course on service opportunities within the defense industrial base and as a Federal civilian employee, to individuals who volunteer to serve in the Armed Forces, but who do not meet accession standards.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 537 - Reimbursement of applicants to certain Armed Forces for certain medical costs incurred during military entrance processing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 533) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to reimburse an individual who applies to join a covered Armed Force for costs incurred by such individual for a medical appointment required for military entrance processing.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would sunset this provision 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and add a recurring briefing requirement on the scope, costs, and efficacy of this program.

Sec. 538 - Authority to modernize recruitment for the Army

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 534) that would require the Secretary of the Army, not later than September 30, 2025, to modernize recruitment for the Army in order to attract and retain fit and ready individuals to serve as members of the Army.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would make this authority permissive and would make other technical and conforming amendments.

We note that the Secretary of the Army has already implemented a recruiting modernization initiative that would substantially comply with the requirements of this provision.

Sec. 539 - Program of military recruitment and education at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 536) that would require the Secretary of Defense to seek to enter into an agreement with an entity that operates the National September 11 Memorial and Museum under which such Secretary and such entity carry out a program at the museum to promote military recruitment and education.

A proposed amendment (Senate Amendment 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 5591).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 539A - Maritime workforce promotion and recruitment

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3536) that would enact the Maritime Workforce and Recruitment Act to strengthen the maritime workforce of the United States Coast Guard and United States Navy.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of the Navy, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, to establish a targeted campaign to educate and recruit potential workers in the maritime sector.

SUBTITLE E—TRAINING

Sec. 541 - Improvements to financial literacy training

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 561) that would amend section 992 of title 10, United States Code, to make several updates to the existing requirement for the Secretary of the military department concerned to provide comprehensive financial literacy training.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would strike the reporting requirements and simplify the requirement to provide information related to retirement to military personnel attending financial literacy training.

Sec. 542 - Extension of JROTC programs to the Job Corps

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 585) that would amend section 2031 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs to be established at Job Corps centers.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 543 - Minimum number of participating students required to establish or maintain a unit of JROTC

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 543) that amend section 2031(b)(1)(A) of title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum number of students required to establish a unit of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps to 50 students.

The Senate-committee reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 581).

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 544 - JROTC waiting list

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 583) that would amend section 2031(c) of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of a military department to maintain a prioritized waiting list of secondary educational institutions that have requested to host a unit of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps and have not yet been approved.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 545 - Number of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps units

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 584) that would amend section 2031 of title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum and maximum number of required units of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps to 3,500 and 4,100, respectively. The requirements of this provision would not take effect until October 1, 2026.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 546 - Required constitutional law training

The House bill contained a (provision (sec. 549C) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that all

commissioned officers of the Armed Forces receive training on the Constitution of the United States prior to commissioning.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 559).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 547 - Prohibition on Federal funds for the Department of Defense Countering Extremism Work Group

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1761) that would prohibit the use of Federal funds for the continued operation of the Countering Extremism Working Group, or to implement any of its recommendations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act to fund the Department of Defense Countering Extremism Working Group established by Secretary of Defense memorandum on April 9, 2021.

SUBTITLE F—MEMBER EDUCATION

Sec. 551 - Expansion of international engagement authorities for Service Academies

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 542) that would amend section 347 of title 10, United States Code, subsection (a) (1) (B), by striking "60" and inserting "80."

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 552 - Modification of authority to engage in funded and unfunded law education programs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549L) that would amend section 2004 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize unfunded legal education programs in the military services. Such provision would also amend section 403 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize basic allowance for housing for military members attending a schooling program under section 2004 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 554) that would amend section 2004 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize unfunded legal education

programs in the military services that would not count against the funded legal education programs authorized elsewhere in such section.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would temporarily expand the eligibility for funded educational expenses under section 2004 of title 10, United States Code, to a maximum of 35 members per year for a period of 3 years. The agreement also contains a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 553 - Additional admissions authority for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 544) that would amend section 2114(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code, to increase the number of foreign students participating in military medical exchange programs at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) from 40 to 50 persons at any one time.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would add a new section to chapter 104 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to enroll up to 10 foreign medical students and up to 40 foreign students in all other postdoctoral, postgraduate, and certificate programs of USUHS, subject to certain specified constraints.

Sec. 554 - Professional military education: technical correction to definitions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 545) that would amend section 2151(b) of title 10, United States Code, by striking National Defense Intelligence College and replacing it with National Intelligence University.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 555 - Distance education option for professional military education

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 555) that would amend section 2154 of title 10, United States Code, to require distance education programs used to satisfy Phase I or Phase II Joint Professional Military

Education requirements to include pathways for students to complete these programs in a fully remote status and without requiring any in-person attendance.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would limit the applicability of this provision to members of the reserve component.

Sec. 556 - Authority to accept gifts of services for professional military education institutions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 546) that would authorize professional military education institutions to accept gifts of services.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 557 - Alternative service obligation for a cadet or midshipman who becomes a professional athlete

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 548) that would authorize service academy graduates to play professional sports and fulfill their service obligation through reserve duty in a recruiting position.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that authorizes a separate alternative service obligation for service academy graduates to play professional sports and limits the number of transfers the Service Secretary could approve each year under such alternative service obligation.

Sec. 558 - Service Academies: Boards of Visitors

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549) that would reform the service academies' boards of visitors.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would limit reforms to an updated process for appointment of congressional members of the board of visitors of military service academies.

Sec. 559 - Modernizing Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class college tuition assistance program to account for inflation

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 553) that would amend section 16401 of title 10, United States Code, by increasing the financial assistance available to participants in the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class College Tuition Assistance Program from \$5,200 to \$13,800 for any academic year and by reducing the number of eligible participants from 1,200 to 450.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 559A - Information on nominations and applications for military service academies

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 560) that would amend section 575 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) to modify the date for the Department of Defense to establish a uniform online portal for military service academy nominations to December 31, 2026.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 559B - Ensuring access to certain higher education benefits

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549D) that would require the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Education to jointly complete a data matching process to identify certain covered employees of the Department of Defense who made student loan payments eligible for public service loan forgiveness under section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)), and to certify the employment of such individuals and their qualifying payments.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 559C - Service Academies: referral of applicants to the senior military colleges and units of the Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549E) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a system where an individual may elect to have the Secretary share information regarding the individual with a senior military college.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 559D - Pilot program to provide graduate education opportunities for enlisted members of the Army and Navy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549F) that would require the Secretaries of the Navy and Army to conduct a pilot program for enlisted personnel to enroll in a master's degree program at the Naval Postgraduate School.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would authorize the Secretaries of the Navy and Army to jointly conduct a 6-year pilot program under which certain enlisted personnel of the covered Armed Forces may enroll in a master's degree program at the Naval Postgraduate School. The amendment would also require the Secretary of Defense, prior to the expiration of the 6-year pilot period, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that provides an assessment of the success of the pilot, along with any recommendations regarding the continuation of the pilot.

Sec. 559E - Prohibition on use of Federal funds to endorse critical race theory

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1049A) that would prohibit a Department of Defense employee from promoting, endorsing, or advocating certain race-based theories.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act to be used to promote critical race theory at Department of Defense educational institutions, in military training, or in professional military education.

SUBTITLE G—MILITARY JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGAL MATTERS

Sec. 561 - Clarifying amendment to Article 2 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5531) that

would amend article 2 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (10 U.S.C. 802) to clarify that retired members of the Space Force who voluntarily retired for length of service are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 562 - Authority of special trial counsel with respect to certain offenses occurring before effective date of military justice reforms

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 551) that would amend article 24a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) (10 U.S.C. 824a) to expand the authority of special trial counsel to exercise jurisdiction over offenses occurring prior to December 28, 2023, as enacted in section 531 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31). This would include the three covered offenses added by sections 541(a) and 541(b) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 542).

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 563 - Detailing of appellate defense counsel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 552) that would amend article 65 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) (10 U.S.C. 865) to require the assignment of appellate defense counsel to review a record of conviction subject to automatic appeal and to be available to represent an accused before the Court of Criminal Appeals if the accused desires such representation. The provision would also require assignment of appellate defense counsel upon the written request of the accused for representation for convictions that do not qualify for automatic review. The provision would also require a complete review of a record of conviction by appellate defense counsel only in those cases where the accused has not affirmatively waived the right to appeal.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 535).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 564 - Modification to offense of aiding the enemy under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 553) that would amend article 103b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) (10 U.S.C. 903b) to include providing military education, military training, or giving tactical advice to the enemy as prohibited acts under the UCMJ.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 533).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 565 - Removal of marriage as a defense to article 120b offenses

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 540) that would amend article 120b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (10 U.S.C. 920b) to remove marriage as a defense to the offense of rape and sexual assault of a child.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 566 - Consolidation of military justice reporting requirements for the military departments

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 531) that would amend section 946a of title 10, United States Code, to consolidate duplicative military justice reporting requirements.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

The provision does not change the essence of the reporting requirements, it merely consolidates duplicative reports.

Sec. 567 - Term of office for judges of the Court of Military Commission Review

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 532) that would amend section 950f of title 10, United States Code, to establish a 10-year term for civilian appellate judges of the Court of Military Commission Review.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 568 - Continuity of coverage under certain provisions of title 18, United States Code

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 524) that would make technical and conforming amendments to sections 202 and 209 of title 18, United States Code, by extending the definition of special government employee to officers of the Space Force.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 569 - Correction of certain citations in title 18, United States Code, relating to sexual offenses

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 559) that would amend part I of title 18, United States Code, to correct certain citations contained in that part relating to certain federal sexual abuse offenses.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 569A - Modification of timeline for potential implementation of study on unanimous court-martial verdicts

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 554) that would amend section 536 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to require the Secretary of Defense to provide a description of any milestones or other requirements that would need to be met to enact legislation in calendar year 2025 instead of calendar year 2027 to require unanimous court-martial verdicts.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary's submission to enable enactment by calendar year 2026.

Sec. 569B - Removal of personally identifying and other information of certain persons from the Department of Defense Central Index of Investigations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 557) that would amend chapter 79 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement uniform guidance for the modification of titling and indexing systems to ensure that a record identifying a member or former member of the Armed Forces as the subject of a criminal investigation is removed from such system if that member or former member is cleared of wrongdoing as described.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 541) that would amend section 545 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) to require the Secretary of Defense, not later than October 1, 2025, to establish a process by which a person may request that the person's name, personally identifying information, and other information pertaining to the person be corrected in, or expunged or otherwise removed from, an index item or entry in the Department of Defense Central Index of Investigations.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 569C - Expanded command notifications to victims of domestic violence

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 555) that would amend section 549 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) to require commanders to ensure that a domestic violence victim, or their Special Victims' Counsel or other legal representative, is notified of a disciplinary action taken in a domestic violence case not referred to court-martial.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 536).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 569D - Extension of Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 538) that would amend section 546(f)(1) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) to extend the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces for an additional 5 years.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 569E - Analysis on the advisability of revising Military Rule of Evidence 513

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 558) that would require the Joint Service Committee on Military Justice to develop recommendations for modifying rule 513

of the Military Rules of Evidence (as set forth in part III of the Manual for Courts-Martial) to include diagnoses of a patient and treatments prescribed to a patient as confidential communications subject to the psychotherapist-patient privilege.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 544).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to analyze the advisability of modifying rule 513 to include diagnoses of a patient and treatments prescribed to a patient as confidential communications subject to the psychotherapist-patient privilege. The amendment would also require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the results of this analysis. We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit this report by not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Sec. 569F - Analysis of prohibition on broadcast and distribution of digitally manipulated intimate images under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 556) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop recommendations for modifying the offense of indecent viewing, visual recording, or broadcasting under section 920c of title 10, United States Code (article 120c of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) to clarify its applicability to the broadcasting and distribution of digitally manipulated intimate images.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to analyze the feasibility and advisability of, and potential approaches to, modifying the offense of indecent viewing, visual recording, or broadcasting under section 920c of title 10, United States Code (article 120c of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) to clarify its applicability to the broadcasting and distribution of digitally manipulated intimate images, and to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the results of this analysis.

SUBTITLE H—CAREER TRANSITION

Sec. 571 - Pathway for individualized counseling for members of the reserve components under TAP

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 565) that would amend section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary concerned to provide a counseling pathway for members of the reserve component under the Transition Assistance Program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 572 - Extension of Troops-to-Teachers Program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 556) that would amend section 1154 of title 10, United States Code, to reduce the total number of stipends authorized to be paid under the troops-to-teachers program to 3,000; and that would extend the mandate for the Secretary of Defense to maintain the troops-to-teachers program until 2029.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would strike the portion of the Senate provision related to limiting Office of the Secretary of Defense travel spending.

Sec. 573 - Extension and expansion of report on the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 597) that would direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to conduct a comprehensive study on military grace period reforms, specifically focusing on the impact of unit tasking during the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) on the ability of servicemembers to transition to civilian life.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would modify the reporting requirements in section 552(b) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232) in lieu of adding a new reporting requirement under the House provision. Under the amendment, Section 552(b) of such Act would be amended to extend an annual reporting requirement by 3 years and require such annual report to include information about attendance, exemptions, and implementation challenges related to TAP.

Sec. 574 - Military training and competency records

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549H) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a centralized database, to be known as the "Military Training and Competency Database," to record and maintain information relating to training performed by members of the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 529A) that would require the Secretaries of the military departments to provide, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, a training and competency record for members of the Armed Forces. The Senate provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, on the implementation and usefulness of the records.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

SUBTITLE I—FAMILY PROGRAMS AND CHILD CARE

Sec. 581 - Interstate compacts for portability of occupational licenses of military spouses: permanent authority

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1841) that would amend section 1784(h) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments for the purpose of developing interstate licensure compacts for military spouses.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 582 - Military Spouse Career Accelerator program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1842) that would amend section 1784 of title 10, United States Code, to permanently authorize the Military Spouse Career Accelerator program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would terminate this authorization on January 1, 2031.

Sec. 583 - Competitive pay for Department of Defense child care personnel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1811) that would amend section 1792 of title 10, United States Code, to require that employees directly involved in military installation child development programs are paid at rates of pay competitive with market rates for childcare workers within the correlating metropolitan or non-metropolitan statistical area, but not below the Department of Defense minimum compensation rates per pay band to acquire a stable and qualified civilian childcare workforce.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would postpone the effective date of the provision to April 1, 2025.

Sec. 584 - Posting of national child abuse hotline at military child development centers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1813) that would amend section 1794 of title 10, United States Code, to revise regulations and processes addressing child abuse and harm to children while attending a military child development center.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would strike the portions of the House provision related to parental notification and remedies.

Sec. 585 - Additional information in outreach campaign relating to waiting lists for military child development centers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1814) that would expand the communication campaign established in section 585(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for the Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to include additional information regarding fee assistance for providers who are not nationally accredited but are otherwise eligible under section 1798 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 586 - Expansion of annual briefing regarding waiting lists for military child development centers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1817) that would direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to provide briefings to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding childcare services at military child development centers.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would add the additional reporting requirement to section 585 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31), and limit the additional reporting requirement to the 20 military installations with the longest waiting lists for childcare.

Sec. 587 - Improvements relating to portability of professional licenses of servicemembers and their spouses

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1091) that would amend section 705A of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (Public Law 108-189) to establish policies and processes for interstate reciprocity of professional licenses of servicemembers and their spouses.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would authorize background checks for covered individuals, define "military orders" under this provision, and modify the definition of a "covered license" under this provision.

Sec. 588 - Child care services and youth program services for dependents

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1816) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the military departments, to fully fund child care fee assistance programs.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 589 - Child care services and youth program services for dependents: period of services for a member with a spouse seeking employment

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1843) that would expand eligibility for unemployed military spouses seeking employment to receive childcare in Department of Defense Child Development Programs, both on and off installation, to 180 days.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 589A - Child development program staffing and compensation model

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1107) that would require the Secretary of Defense to redesign the Department of Defense child development program compensation model and modernize the child development program staffing model.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 578).

The agreement includes the House provision with technical and conforming amendments and an amendment that would require an initial baseline briefing and subsequent annual briefings to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding the planning for and implementation of the modernized staffing model.

Sec. 589B - Inclusive Playground Pilot Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 577) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to establish a pilot program for the design, development, and construction of playgrounds that support families in the Exceptional Family Member Program. Not later than March 28, 2025, the Under Secretary would be required to submit a strategy for the implementation of the program that would detail governance structure, selection of military installations for the program, and objectives.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 579A) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than March 28, 2025, to submit a strategy on developing an inclusive playground pilot program to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The provision would further direct the Under Secretary of Defense

for Personnel and Readiness to establish an inclusive playground as described in the strategy.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than March 1, 2026, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for the implementation of a military families inclusive playground pilot program. The amendment would also prohibit the implementation of the inclusive playground pilot program until 180 days after the Secretary submits the implementation plan and until such time that funds are obligated for the design, development, and construction of inclusive playgrounds as a minor military construction project.

SUBTITLE J—DEPENDENT EDUCATION

Sec. 591 - Advisory committees for Department of Defense domestic dependents schools

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 571) that would amend section 2164 of title 10, United States Code, to establish school advisory committees at domestic schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 592 - Eligibility of dependents of certain deceased members of the Armed Forces for enrollment in Department of Defense domestic dependent elementary and secondary schools

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5571) that would amend section 2164(j) of title 10, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Defense to authorize the enrollment of certain dependents in a Department of Defense Education Activity Education program.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 593 - Expansion of eligibility for virtual programs operated by Department of Defense Education Activity

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 572) that would amend section 2164(l) of title 10, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for enrollment in virtual

education programs offered by the Department of Defense Education Activity.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 594 - Authorization for school meal programs at Department of Defense dependent schools

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 573) that would amend section 2164 of title 10, United States Code, and section 1402 of the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-561) to authorize the Secretary of Defense to administer a meal program, consistent with Federal law and standards prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture, for students enrolled in Department of Defense domestic dependent schools.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 595 - Eligibility of certain dependents for enrollment in domestic dependent elementary and secondary schools

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 577) that would add a new section to chapter 208 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program under which dependents of a full-time, Active Duty member may enroll in covered Department of Defense Education Activity schools on a space-available basis, without regard to whether the member resides on the installation.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 596 - Staffing of Department of Defense Education Activity schools to maintain maximum student-to-teacher ratios

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 571) that would amend section 589B(c) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) by striking "2023-2024 academic year" and inserting "2029-2030 academic year."

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 574).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 597 - Enrollment in defense dependents' education system of children of foreign military members assigned to United Nations Command

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 575) that would amend section 1404A of the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-561) to authorize the enrollment of children of foreign military members assigned to United Nations Command to Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 598 - Certain assistance to local educational agencies that benefit dependents of military and civilian personnel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 575) that would authorize \$50.0 million for the purpose of providing assistance to local educational agencies with military dependent students and \$20.0 million for local educational agencies eligible to receive a payment for children with severe disabilities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 576) that would authorize \$50.0 million for continuation of the Department of Defense (DOD) assistance program to local educational agencies impacted by enrollment of dependent children of military members and DOD civilian employees. The provision would also authorize \$10.0 million for impact aid payments for children with severe disabilities, using the formula set forth in section 363 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398). Furthermore, the provision would authorize the Secretary of Defense to use an additional \$20.0 million for payments to local educational agencies determined by the Secretary to have higher concentrations of military children with severe disabilities.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would reduce the additional payments to local educational agencies at the determination of the Secretary concerned to \$10.0 million.

Sec. 599 - Training requirements teachers in 21st century schools of the Department of Defense Education Activity

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 572) that would provide teacher bonuses for difficult to fill overseas locations, ensure adequate teacher training for 21st century classrooms, and establish a pilot program authorizing a select

number of students in Bahrain to attend a local international school through the Department of State regulations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would strike the authorizations for teacher bonuses at high-needs schools and the Bahrain school pilot program.

We note that military dependents who reside overseas must attend a Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) school if available. We have heard complaints that the DODEA schools in Bahrain have had several reported problems with parent-teacher communication, long-term substitute teachers, and dwindling academic offerings. As such, we direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than December 31, 2025, on the administration of DODEA schools in Bahrain. Such report shall include:

(1) The number of classes in Bahrain DODEA schools that had long-term substitute teachers in the last 3 school years, by grade and subject-matter;

(2) The number of Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered in-person in Bahrain DODEA schools over the last 3 school years, by year offered;

(3) An assessment of how AP course offerings in Bahrain DODEA schools compare to other overseas DODEA schools;

(4) An assessment of issues related to communication between the DODEA Bahrain school administrations and parents; and

(5) An assessment of special education capabilities and requirements in the Bahrain DODEA schools.

Sec. 599A - Overseas transfer program for educators in schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 574) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA), to develop and implement a program whereby teachers at DODEA schools may transfer to overseas locations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary to develop and implement a policy allowing for teachers at overseas DODEA schools to transfer to other overseas DODEA schools. We expect that such policy will adhere to existing law, including being

subject to collective bargaining agreements between DODEA and their employees.

Sec. 599B - Parental right to notice of student nonproficiency in reading or language arts

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 578) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that each elementary school operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity notifies the parents of any student enrolled in such school when the student does not score as grade-level proficient in reading or language arts at the end of the third grade based on certain reading and language arts assessments administered by such school.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Grade of Surgeon General of the Navy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 501) that would amend sections 525 and 8077 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Surgeon General of the Navy to serve in the grade of O-9.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Removal of exemption relating to Attending Physician to the Congress for certain distribution and grade limitations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 503) that would amend section 525 of title 10, United States Code, to remove the exemption for the Attending Physician to the Congress from the limitation on that officer's Armed Force for officers serving on Active Duty in grades above brigadier general or rear admiral (lower half).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Modification to grade of Attending Physician to the Congress

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 505) that would amend section 715 of title 10, United States Code, to require

that an officer serving as the Attending Physician to the Congress hold the grade of O-6 while so serving.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Inclusion of service in SROTC in the computation of length of service of an officer appointed for completing SROTC

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 507) that would amend section 2106 of title 10, United States Code, to require inclusion of time served in any component of the Armed Forces while attending advanced training under section 2104 of title 10, United States Code, in the computation of length of service of a servicemember.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the House provision would have created a disparity in the treatment of Active-Duty service in length of service calculations between those officers that attended advanced training under section 2104 of title 10, United States Code, while concurrently serving as Active-Duty enlisted members of the Armed Forces; and those officers that were enrolled at designated service schools while concurrently serving as Active-Duty cadets or midshipmen under section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code.

Grades of certain chiefs of reserve components

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 511) that would amend sections 7038, 8083, 8084, and 9038 of title 10, United States Code, to require the chief of each military service reserve component to serve in the grade of lieutenant general or vice admiral.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the chiefs of these reserve components already serve in the grade of lieutenant general or vice admiral.

Feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Guard in American Samoa and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 513) that would require the Secretary of Defense to determine the feasibility of establishing: (1) A unit of the National Guard in American Samoa; and (2) A unit of the National Guard in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to report to Congress within 180 days of the enactment of this Act on the results of this determination.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing units of the National Guard in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands, and to submit a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, by not later than April 1, 2025, on the results of this assessment.

Merit-based principles for military personnel decisions in the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 523) that would require all personnel actions within the Department of Defense to be based on individual merit and demonstrated performance.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that section 529C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) requires that military accessions and promotions be based on individual merit and demonstrated performance.

Next of kin of deceased members of certain armed forces: database; privacy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 524) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue guidance to establish and maintain a database containing up-to-date contact information for next of kin of deceased servicemembers.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Marine Corps permeability pilot program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 525) that would authorize the Commandant of the Marine Corps to carry out a

pilot program under which a member may move between the active reserve components of the Marine Corps more easily.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Space Force Personnel System under chapter 2001 of title 10, United States Code, provides a model for increased permeability of officers between the active and reserve components of the Armed Forces.

Prohibition of requirement in the Department of Defense to wear a mask to stop the spread of COVID-19

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 527) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from requiring an individual to wear a mask on a military installation in the United States to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Elimination of offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion and personnel of such offices

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 528) that would eliminate offices of the Armed Forces and of the Department of Defense established to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Posthumous commission as captain in the regular Army for Milton Holland

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 529) that would posthumously commission Milton Holland, who, while sergeant major of the 5th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, was awarded the Medal of Honor in recognition of his actions on September 29, 1864, during the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, Virginia.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize and honor Milton Holland for his incredible bravery and valor while serving in the Civil War, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. We note that the President currently has the authority to posthumously commission Milton

Holland and that the Army is in the process of reviewing this matter.

Authorization of members awarded certain decorations to wear the uniform when not on active duty

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 529A) that would amend section 772 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new subsection to authorize members awarded certain decorations to wear the uniform when not on Active Duty.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that under section 772 of title 10, United States Code, retired members of the Armed Forces are authorized to wear their uniforms without any restrictions based upon the awards or decorations they received, as are former members of the Armed Services who served honorably in a time of war.

Review of adverse action against a chaplain who requested exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination mandate

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 529B) that would require, not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the establishment of boards under section 1552 or 1553 of title 10, United States Code, as applicable, to review the military personnel record, or the characterization of a discharge or dismissal, of a current or former chaplain in an Armed Force who suffered an adverse personnel action as a result of, arising from, or in conjunction with, requesting a religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination mandate.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that sections 526 and 527 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) required the establishment of processes to consider reinstatement, and to review the characterization of discharge, of servicemembers separated solely on the basis of their failure to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Selective Service System: automatic registration

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 531) that would provide for automatic registration of male citizens and males residing in the United States between the ages of 18 and 26 in the Selective Service System.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained similar provisions (sec. 598, sec. 598A, sec. 598B, sec. 598C and sec. 598D) that would authorize automatic registration for all citizens and persons residing in the United States, as well as make other reforms and technical modifications to the Military Selective Service Act and related statutes.

The agreement does not include either provision.

Prohibition on cannabis testing for enlistment or commission in certain Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 532) that would prohibit cannabis testing as a condition of enlistment or commission in the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 599) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that all prospective recruits and officer candidates undergo testing for controlled substances prior to enlistment or appointment as an officer in the Armed Forces.

The agreement does not include either provision.

Recruitment strategy for members of the Armed Forces who were discharged or dismissed on the sole basis of failure to obey a lawful order to receive a vaccine for COVID-19

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 535) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a strategy to specifically recruit individuals discharged or dismissed from an Armed Force on the sole basis of failure to obey a lawful order to receive a vaccine for COVID-19 to be reinstated in the Armed Force concerned.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Section 528 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) required the Secretary of Defense to communicate to individuals discharged or dismissed from an Armed Force on the sole basis of failure to obey a lawful order to receive a vaccine for COVID-19 the process by which the individual could be reinstated in the Armed Forces. All military departments have communicated the options for reinstatement to the separated individuals.

Improving oversight of military recruitment practices in public secondary schools

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 538) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees an annual report on military recruitment practices in public secondary schools during calendar year 2024 and each subsequent calendar year.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the data that would be reported under this provision is already collected and available for review by the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives at any time.

Increase to maximum funding for the Regional Defense Fellowship Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 541) that would amend section 345 of title 10, United States Code, to adjust the maximum funding amount for the Regional Defense Fellowship Program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Service Academies: appointments and additional appointees

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 547) that would require that the admissions processes for the military service academies are based on a whole candidate score regardless of race or ethnicity.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Inclusion of certain information in annual military service academy reports

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549A) that would include in annual military service academy reports the number of substantiated cases of sexual misconduct for which there is reason to believe that a victim was targeted, or discriminated against, or both, for their status in a protected group.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that this data is collected as part of the Armed Forces Workplace and Gender Relations Survey, pursuant to section 481 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 591 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

Naval Postgraduate School: function

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549B) that would expand the Naval Postgraduate School's (NPS) mission.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize the importance of the Naval Postgraduate School in providing defense-focused graduate education to advance the operational effectiveness, technological leadership, and warfighting advantage of the naval service. We acknowledge that NPS's curriculum and research must continue to adapt to prepare defense leaders with the intellectual capabilities to meet operational and strategic challenges in an increasingly dynamic and complex security environment. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than December 1, 2025, on the mission of NPS in section 8541 of title 10, United States Code, including:

(1) An assessment of whether the NPS function is sufficient to allow for reform and modernization of NPS curricula and research in response to new strategic environments and emerging technologies;

(2) The feasibility and advisability of expanding the NPS function; and

(3) Any recommendations for changes to the NPS function.

Air Force rapid response language pilot program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549G) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to establish a rapid response language pilot program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize that foreign language skills are a critical mission enabler for signals intelligence and other military activities. We acknowledge the need for the Air Force to provide dynamic language capabilities to respond to unforeseen

requirements, conflict surges, humanitarian disasters, or other military needs. This need is underscored by the evolving global security landscape, which necessitates agility in language proficiency across a spectrum of languages, some of which may currently have limited to no capability within the Department of Defense. We note the Air Force's Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) currently develops working-level foreign language proficiency for airmen.

Therefore, we direct the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than April 1, 2025, on critical language proficiency in the Air Force. The briefing should include information on the current status of LEAP, other foreign language programs offered to airmen, challenges to increasing language readiness in response to current and emergent needs, a description of the process for coordinating with the Army as the executive agent for contract linguist support, any plans to expand the reach of LEAP or other foreign language programs in the future, and any additional resources needed to support linguist requirements.

Military vehicle operator training program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549I) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a standardized training curriculum for military vehicle operations, encompassing both classroom and practical training components.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize that rollover incidents continue to be an ongoing safety issue for the Army and the Marine Corps. We also note the Marine Corps has instituted multiple lines of effort to address safety mishaps and are interested in hearing about how these efforts have led to changes in training and protocol. Therefore, we direct the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Chief of Staff of the Army, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on efforts to mitigate vehicle mishaps.

Speech disorders of cadets and midshipmen

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549J) that would require the Superintendents of the military service

academies to provide testing for speech disorders to incoming cadets and midshipmen.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Department of Defense provided a directed briefing on this issue in May 2022, detailing the necessity for officers to speak clearly and effectively while leading troops; noting the availability of medical waivers in certain circumstances for physical or medical standards; providing the Reading Aloud Test administered to applicants; highlighting that, on average, only one prospective student per year is denied admission for a speech disorder; and describing the availability of speech therapy.

Annual training on the prevention of sexual abuse for students in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549K) that would require annual training for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps participants on prevention of sexual abuse.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the training that would be required under the House provision is already required by section 2031 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 552 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

Dive school required element of qualification as a combat controller of the Air Force

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 549M) that would direct the Secretary of the Air Force to require that training to qualify as a combat controller of the Air Force includes dive school.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Air Force changed the requirement for combat controllers to be combat dive qualified from an initial skill to an advanced skill in 2023. We direct the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, on the advisability of restoring dive school qualification as a required element of initial training

for combat controllers. The briefing should include information on the justification for changing it to an advanced skill, which, if any, special tactics operators require advanced dive school training, the benefits of dive school training in executing special tactics missions, and any other information the Secretary deems relevant.

Modifications to Transition Assistance Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 561) that would amend section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary concerned to waive the requirement of pre-separation counseling for servicemembers. Additionally, this section would permit servicemembers who reenlist to receive pre-separation counseling on a space available basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Minimum duration of preseparation counseling regarding financial planning

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 562) that would amend section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, to add counseling to the financial planning section of the Transition Assistance Program, and to require the financial planning assistance and counseling section to last at least 1 hour.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that servicemembers currently receive financial counseling and training, both during the Transition Assistance Program and throughout their time in service.

Transition Assistance Program: presentation in preseparation counseling to promote benefits available to veterans

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 563) that would amend section 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, to require veterans service organizations (VSOs) to provide information to servicemembers participating in pre-separation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize the critical role that VSOs play in the transition of servicemembers to civilian life and veteran

status, particularly in the preparation, presentation, and adjudication of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims. We note that the TAP VA benefits and services course of instruction includes a VA and VSO joint presentation to separating servicemembers on how VSOs can help them navigate VA and state benefit programs, including filing for disability, home loans, and healthcare. The presentation also incorporates a practical exercise to ensure servicemembers can find their local VSO representative. We encourage the Department of Defense to continue to maintain strong and positive relationships with VSOs to facilitate their delivery of services to separating servicemembers.

Establishment of counseling pathway in the Transition Assistance Program for members of certain reserve components of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 564) that would amend section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, to establish a minimum of one counseling pathway in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for members of the Reserve Components of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that TAP counseling pathways for members of the Reserve Component are addressed in a provision located elsewhere in this Act.

Transition Assistance Program: Department of Labor Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 566) that would require the establishment of a pilot program known as the Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot Program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Employment Navigator Partnership Program is an existing and successful program of the Department of Labor. The current model is highly effective and provides optimum flexibility for program administration, participants, and partners.

Pilot program on secure, mobile personal health record for members of the Armed Forces participating in the Transition Assistance Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 567) that would direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to commence a pilot program under which Active Duty members of the Armed Forces who are enrolled in the Transition Assistance Program use a covered health record platform to collect their records before separating from Active Duty.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that existing law requires the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to integrate electronic medical records into the same technology platform. When implemented, this integration will provide seamless transition from the Military Health System to the Veterans Health Administration without the need for a third-party platform to collect sensitive personal and medical information from servicemembers.

SkillBridge: apprenticeship programs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 568) that would require the Department of Defense to conduct a study on the availability of registered apprenticeship positions within the SkillBridge program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than June 1, 2025, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the United States Military Apprenticeship Program. Such report shall include: (1) Information on the trades that are eligible for participation in the program; (2) The number of servicemembers in each military service who are enrolled in the program, disaggregated by trade; and (3) Recommendations for policy or legislative changes to improve the effectiveness of the program, if any.

Transmission of information regarding member's opioid use disorder to Department of Veterans Affairs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 569) that would amend section 1142(d) of title 10, United States Code, to add a requirement for the Secretaries of the military departments to notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs about the known history

of opioid use disorder for any servicemember within 60 days of such member's separation from military service.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on the number of veterans who have their military acquired credentials recognized at the State-level for the civilian workforce

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 569A) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor, to submit to Congress a report that builds on the data reported in the "DOD Credentialing Utilization" report from 2018 (3-BB02A16) to better assess the effectiveness of the Credentialing Programs for post-military civilian employment.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Training and internships for transitioning members through institutions of higher education

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 569B) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to conduct outreach to institutions of higher education in order to enter into more agreements with such institutions of higher education for training or internships for members of the Armed Forces pursuant to the SkillBridge program established under section 1143(e) of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Opt-out sharing of information on members retiring or separating from the Armed Forces with community-based organizations and related entities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 569C) that would amend section 570F of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) to authorize servicemembers transitioning off of active duty to opt out of having their information shared with state veterans' agencies.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 558).

The agreement does not include either provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than May 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a servicemember opt-out option for authorizing the Department of Defense to share the information of servicemembers separating from the Armed Forces with state veterans' agencies.

Addressing mental health issues in the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense and the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 569D) that would amend section 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, by expanding the mental health information that must be included in counseling servicemembers under the Transition Assistance Program. The provision would also amend section 6320(b) of title 38, United States Code, to expand the activities of the Solid Start Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include providing assistance related to mental health counseling and healthcare through the Veterans Health Administration.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Amendments to pathways for counseling in Transition Assistance Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 569E) that would amend section 1142(c) of title 10, United States Code, to expand the counseling pathways of the Transition Assistance Program to consider the following factors: childcare, employment of other adults in the servicemember's household, the servicemember's location, the effects of operating tempo, and whether the servicemember is an Indian or urban Indian.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Records of a separating member: provision of electronic copies

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 569F) that would amend section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary concerned to provide electronic medical records to separating servicemembers not later than 30 days before such servicemember's date of separation from military service. The provision would also require the Secretary

concerned to provide an electronic copy of separation documents to separating servicemembers not later than 15 days after the date of separation from military service.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

SkillBridge for the submarine industrial base

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 569G) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a survey to determine which such employers in the submarine industrial base are experiencing workforce shortages and use the SkillBridge program to provide members training under such program with such employers.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the vital importance of qualified, skilled workers in the submarine industrial base. We direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of the Navy, to provide a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on how the Department of Defense is using the SkillBridge program to facilitate separating military personnel joining the submarine industrial base to address workforce shortages.

Prohibition on diversity, equity, and inclusion policy bodies for DODEA schools

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 573) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from maintaining or establishing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committees, panels, offices, or other related organizations within schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Verification of reporting of eligible federally connected children for purposes of Federal impact aid programs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 576) that would require the commanders of each military installation to annually submit written certification to their respective military

departments verifying whether they have confirmed the information contained in all Impact Aid source check forms.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that local commanders do not currently have access to the information necessary to certify Impact Aid at the installation level. We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than June 1, 2025, to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on its progress in working with the Defense Manpower Data Center to gain access to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System in order to complete the Impact Aid source check verification process.

Instruction in artificial intelligence and machine learning in schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 579) that would direct the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity, to require that each student of a high school operated by the Activity receives instruction in artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

GAO study on child care services provided or paid for by the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 579A) that would direct the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study to assess the childcare programs of the Department of Defense, including military child development centers, family home day care, Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood, and Child Care in Your Home.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives are awaiting several congressionally-directed studies and reports on childcare programs of the Department of Defense by both the Comptroller General of the United States and the Secretary of Defense. We further note that the Secretary of Defense would be required to submit additional information on childcare waiting lists under a provision elsewhere in this Act.

Prohibition on availability of funds for certain materials in schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 579B) that would prohibit the availability of funds for any material that contains, depicts, or otherwise includes pornographic content or any material that espouses, advocates, or promotes gender ideology in schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibitions on provision of gender transition services through an Exceptional Family Member Program of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 579C) that would prohibit the provision of gender transition services through the Exceptional Family Member Program of the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on separating members who have health care experience and Medical Reserve Corps

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 579D) that would require the Secretary Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the process by which members of the Armed Forces with healthcare experience transition to civilian life and the number of such members who join the Medical Reserve Corps.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than December 31, 2025, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the process by which members of the Armed Forces with healthcare experience transition to civilian life and the number of such members who join the Medical Reserve Corps.

Prohibition of TikTok

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 579E) that would prohibit the use of TikTok within Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) schools for instructional purposes.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing, by not later than July 1, 2025, on the use of cell phones within the academic environment, including an assessment of such use on student achievement. The briefing should highlight trends within comparable civilian secondary schools on cell phone use, identify which DODEA schools currently have policies in place restricting use of cell phones, include observations on the impact such restrictions have had on student achievement in such schools, and make recommendations for regulatory or statutory change as the Secretary considers appropriate. Further, the briefing shall consider specifically the use of social media in the learning environment, including specifically the use of TikTok, and its effect on student achievement. We note that the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-328), enacted the No TikTok on Government Devices Act, which instructs the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Secretary of Defense, to develop standards and guidelines for agencies requiring the removal of TikTok from Federal information technology.

Report on effectiveness of the exceptional family member program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 579F) that would direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, that includes: (1) The results of a study of the effectiveness of the Exceptional Family Member program authorized under section 1781c(e) of title 10, United States Code, with respect to the manner by which it currently supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and (2) Recommendations to improve the program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Study on high-impact tutoring in DODEA schools

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 579G) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing the results of a study on high-impact tutoring programs in Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) elementary and secondary schools.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We have heard of the benefits of high-impact tutoring programs, which include programs in math, reading, or both subjects for at least 30 minutes during a school day for at least 3 days per week during the school year, and programs taught by licensed DODEA teachers or paraprofessionals with a student-to-tutor ratio of no more than three-to-one. We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than May 1, 2025, on DODEA tutoring programs, including high-impact tutoring programs. Such briefing shall include--

(1) The total number of existing tutoring programs within DODEA and estimated number of participating students by location;

(2) The total number of existing tutoring programs within DODEA that incorporate high-impact tutoring and estimated number of participating students by location;

(3) A description of how DODEA tutoring programs are funded;

(4) Recommendations for increasing student participation in tutoring programs, including high-impact tutoring programs;

(5) A discussion of any barriers to increasing student participation in such tutoring programs; and

(6) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of developing a licensed tutoring workforce for DODEA.

Authorization for award of Medal of Honor to E. Royce Williams for acts of valor during the Korean War

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 581) that would waive the time limitations specified in section 8298 of title 10, United States Code, and authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to E. Royce Williams for acts of valor during the Korean Conflict.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We acknowledge and honor Royce Williams's heroism while engaged in aerial combat over the Sea of Japan on November 18, 1952, for which he was awarded the Silver Star.

Authorization for award of the Medal of Honor to Thomas H. Griffin for acts of valor as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 582) that would waive the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, and authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Thomas Helmut Griffin for his acts of valor as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize and honor the heroism and courage of Thomas Helmut Griffin for his actions in Vietnam from March 1 through March 3, 1969, for which he was awarded the Silver Star.

Authorization for award of Medal of Honor to James Capers, Jr. for acts of valor as a member of the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 583) that would waive the time limitations specified in section 8298 of title 10, United States Code, and authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Capers, Jr. for the acts of valor during the Vietnam War.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize and honor the heroism and courage of James Capers, Jr., for his service in Vietnam during the period of March 31 through April 3, 1967, for which he was awarded the Silver Star.

Authorization of award of Medal of Honor to Gregory McManus for acts of valor

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 584) that would waive the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, and authorize the President to award the

Medal of Honor to Gregory McManus for his acts of valor as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize and honor the heroism and courage of Gregory McManus during his service in Vietnam, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Authorization for Last Servicemember Standing medal

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 585) that would amend chapter 57 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize a service medal to be known as the "Last Servicemember Standing medal."

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives received a briefing from the Secretary of Defense on March 5, 2024, pursuant to a directed requirement in the conference report (H. Rept. 188-301) accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024. In this briefing, the Secretary noted that the Department of Defense has a well-established military decorations and awards program based on specific criteria, which results in distinct recognition for each type of action or service. Recognizing a servicemember for being the last person standing would result in duplicate recognition for awards already authorized through the Department's military decorations and awards program.

Eligibility of veterans of Operation End Sweep for Vietnam Service Medal

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 586) that would authorize the Secretaries of the military departments concerned to award the Vietnam Service Medal to a veteran who participated in Operation End Sweep.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We acknowledge the distinguished service of veterans who participated in Operation End Sweep from February 6, 1973 to July 18, 1973, in undertaking the harrowing work of clearing sea mines laid in Vietnamese waters. We value the honorable

performance of Operation End Sweep veterans following the cessation of military combat operations in Vietnam.

Authorization of award of Medal of Honor to Joseph M. Perez for acts of valor as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 587) that would recognize the acts of valor by Joseph M. Perez while serving as a Sergeant in the Army in South Vietnam on May 26, 1967, and would waive the time limitation in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the President to award Joseph M. Perez with the Medal of Honor.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize and honor the service, sacrifice, and valor of Joseph M. Perez during his service in Vietnam on May 26, 1967, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Authorization of award of Medal of Honor to Juan Ogo Blaz for acts of valor while serving as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 588) that would waive the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Juan Ogo Blaz for acts of valor while serving as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War on January 18, 1969, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Army is currently reviewing the records of Juan Ogo Blaz to determine whether he should be awarded the Medal of Honor under the requirements of section 586 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

Authorization of award of Medal of Honor to Martin A. Maglona for acts of valor while serving as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 589) that would waive the time limitations in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Martin A. Maglona for acts of valor while serving as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War on February 23, 1969.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Army is currently reviewing the records of Martin A. Maglona to determine whether he should be awarded the Medal of Honor under the requirements of section 586 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

Modification to annual reports on racial and ethnic demographics in the military justice system

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 591) that would require additional reporting information on administrative actions in the annual reports to Congress on racial and ethnic demographics in the military justice system.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the reporting required by the House provision is already required by section 486 of title 10, United States Code.

Modernization of dress codes and policies on military installations during non-working and non-duty status hours

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 593) that would direct the Secretaries of the military departments to issue guidance, not later than June 1, 2025, to commanders of installations under the jurisdiction of such Secretaries to require the modernization of dress codes or policies for members of the Armed Forces during non-working and non-duty status hours, while on military installations, and for all military dependents on military installations at any time.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the military services currently have policies prescribing dress codes for military members.

Pilot program to allow members in the Department of the Air Force to grow beards

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 594) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to establish a pilot program to allow members of the Air Force and Space Force to grow beards.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Air Force, not later than April 1, 2025, to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a pilot program to authorize members of the Air Force and Space Force to grow beards. Such briefing shall include the following elements: (1) The evaluation of the Secretary of the compatibility of beards with military equipment that requires an airtight seal, such as a gas mask; (2) An assessment of the effect of beard growth on discipline, morale, and unity within the ranks; (3) A determination whether allowing members to grow beards improves inclusivity, including for members with conditions like pseudofolliculitis barbae or who wish to grow beards for religious purposes; (4) Identifications of any negative perception or bias towards members with beards; and (5) Strategies to mitigate such negative perceptions or bias.

Female members of certain Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense in STEM

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 595) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on how to increase the participation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) positions in the Armed Forces.

The Senate-committee reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that women are eligible for all military occupational specialties related to STEM, and many women in service work in STEM and STEM-related functions in today's military. Additionally, STEM internship opportunities in the SkillBridge program are already available to members of the Armed Forces transitioning from active duty to civilian life.

Study on benefits of standardizing policies regarding basic allowance for housing and family housing eligibility for members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who are unaccompanied and pregnant

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 596) that would direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to carry out a study on the policies regarding basic allowance for housing and family

housing eligibility for members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who are unaccompanied and who become pregnant while residing in unaccompanied housing.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than January 1, 2026, on military service policies regarding unaccompanied members of the Armed Forces who become pregnant while residing in unaccompanied housing. Such briefing shall include: (1) An overview of current service policies regarding when unaccompanied members of the Armed Forces who become pregnant while residing in unaccompanied housing become eligible for basic allowance for housing and family housing, respectively; (2) Whether disparities exist between written policies on this topic and the implementation of such policies; (3) Any policy or legislative recommendations to standardize and update such policies across the Armed Forces, as appropriate; and (4) Any costs associated with the implementation of the policy and legislative recommendations in part (3).

Sense of Congress regarding military service by individuals with amputations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 598) that would express a sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should issue medical waivers to individuals seeking to serve in the Armed Forces who are precluded from serving solely because of a non service-connected amputation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We acknowledge the honorable and meaningful contributions that individuals with amputations have made to the country while serving in the United States military. We urge the Department of Defense to explore avenues for individuals with non service-connected amputations to serve in support of the nation's defense.

Report on National Guard sexual assault and response prevention training

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 599) that would require the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the

House of Representatives containing the number of National Guard members, aggregated by state, that received sexual assault and response prevention training in the preceding calendar year not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act for the initial report and annually by March 30 beginning in 2026.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to submit a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives containing the number of National Guard members, aggregated by state, that received sexual assault and response prevention training in the preceding calendar year by not later than July 1, 2025.

Commercial transition for military aviation mechanics

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 599A) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to create a strategy to support the transition of military aviation mechanics to commercial aviation mechanics after active duty service.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Entrepreneurship program for servicemembers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 599B) that would require the Secretary of Defense to study the feasibility of establishing a mentoring program for members of the Armed Forces who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs or founding start-up businesses after their active duty service.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that under section 1142(c) of title 10, United States Code, the Department of Defense is currently required to provide unique counseling pathways for members participating in the Transition Assistance Program who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs.

Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion; report

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 599C) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the organization, activities, and costs associated with the Defense

Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on integration of chaplains into activities in the Indo-Pacific region

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 599D) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress assessing the integration of chaplains into Department of Defense activities in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Priority in expansion of pilot program to provide financial assistance to members of the Armed Forces for in-home child care

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1815) that would amend section 589 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) to require the Secretary of Defense to give priority to certain remote locations in the expansion of the Child Care in Your Home pilot program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than April 1, 2025, on administrative and cost barriers to expanding the Child Care in Your Home pilot program. Such briefing shall include: (1) An overview of the administrative requirements and costs of the program; (2) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of expanding the pilot into additional locations, including Fort Drum, New York; Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico; Naval Air Station Lemoore, California; and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California; and (3) Any other relevant matters that the Secretary deems appropriate.

Briefing on access of members of National Guard to child care services at military child development centers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1818) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing regarding the access of members of the National Guard to childcare services at military child development centers.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than January 1, 2026, on access of members of the National Guard to childcare services at military Child Development Centers (CDC). Such briefing shall include the following elements:

(1) The estimated number of families in the National Guard with children under 12 years of age;

(2) The estimated number of families in the National Guard with children under 12 years in which both parents are members of the National Guard;

(3) The estimated number of single parent households in which the parent is a member of the National Guard;

(4) The average number of days during the year in which a member of the National Guard who has a child under 12 years of age is serving on Active Duty or inactive duty training;

(5) The estimated number of members of the National Guard with a child under 12 years of age who live within 50 miles of a CDC;

(6) The estimated number of National Guard installations located within 50 miles of a CDC; and

(7) Any other relevant matters that the Secretary deems appropriate.

Briefing on implementation of recommendations of Quality of Life Panel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1854) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a briefing on the implementation of the recommendations in the report, dated April 2024 of the Quality of Life Panel of such Committee.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than January 1, 2026, on the

Department of Defense's implementation of the recommendations contained in the report, dated April 2024 of the House Armed Services Committee's Quality of Life Panel.

Longer term and eligibility for appointment to rank of Admiral of Commander of Naval Sea Systems Command

The Senate committee-reported bill contained provisions (sec. 509B, sec. 1047) that would require the Commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command to serve a term of 8 years, and make the Commander eligible for appointment to the rank of admiral during that final 3 years of that service.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provisions.

We note that the Secretary of the Navy currently has the authority to extend the tenure of the Commander of Naval Sea Systems Command, and has done so in the past under certain individual circumstances. Additionally, the Navy is considering the establishment of a new materiel command that could have implications for the organization of the Navy's systems commands, including Naval Sea Systems Command.

Permanent modification to the Army National Guard and Air National Guard inactive National Guard statute

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 511) that would amend section 303 of title 32, United States Code, to authorize officers to transfer from the Selected Reserve to the Inactive National Guard.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Selective Service Director appointment subject to Senate confirmation

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 523) that would amend section 3809 of title 50, United States Code, to require Senate confirmation of the Director, Selective Service, effective for appointments made 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Modification of persons not qualified for enlistment definition

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 527) that would amend section 504 of title 10, United

States Code, to broaden the authorized duties of certain non-citizen individuals who enlist in the Armed Force.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Combat status identifier equivalent for remotely piloted aircraft crew

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 529) that would require the Secretaries of the military departments to establish a status identifier of equivalent merit as a combat status identifier for remotely piloted aircraft crews who conduct combat operations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Exemption of women forced to register for draft from requirements to serve in combat roles

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 529B) that would specify that women drafted into service under the Selective Service System may not be compelled to join combat roles that were closed to women prior to December 3, 2015, train or become qualified in a combat arms military occupational specialty, or join a combat arms unit.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Pre-referral requirements related to sufficiency of admissible evidence

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 534) that would amend Article 34 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (10 U.S.C. 834) to require a written determination by a staff judge advocate or special trial counsel that the admissible evidence will probably be sufficient to obtain and sustain a conviction before a charge can be referred to trial by general court-martial.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Reimbursement of expenses and property damage for victims of designated offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 539) that would amend chapter 53 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretaries of the military

departments to provide payments to victims of designated offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for unreimbursed expenses directly related to the harm suffered as the result of being victimized, including health care expenses, travel expenses, and expenses for property damage or loss resulting from the designated offense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Investigations of sexual assaults in the National Guard

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 543) that would require the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (DACIPAD) to review how states investigate and prosecute allegations of sexual assault with a National Guard nexus, and to make recommendations on improving investigations and reporting of sexual assaults within the National Guard. The provision would require the DACIPAD to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on this review. The provision would also specify that state Adjutants General are senior officials for the purposes of investigating allegations of reprisal.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the DACIPAD to review how states investigate and prosecute allegations of sexual assault with a National Guard nexus and how investigations and reporting of sexual assaults within the National Guard can be improved. The review shall include: (1) An overview of the processes by which states investigate allegations of sexual assault within the National Guard; (2) An assessment of the extent to which, and the effectiveness with which, the Office of Complex Investigations (OCI) within the National Guard Bureau provides assistance to state National Guards in the investigation of such allegations; (3) An assessment of the organizational structure of the OCI and its authority to investigate, including a description of OCI's funding, the number of personnel assigned, and the force mix between military, civilian, and contractor personnel, OCI's relationships with state authorities, and an assessment of whether OCI should be codified in permanent law; and (4) Any other matter that the DACIPAD considers appropriate to review with respect to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assaults with a National Guard nexus.

We direct the DACIPAD to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives

on the results of this review by not later than February 28, 2026.

Inclusion of Space Force professional military education programs in definitions of senior and intermediate level service schools and as covered programs for copyright purposes

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 557) that would amend section 2151(b) of title 10, United States Code, to include Space Force professional military education programs in the list of authorized Department of Defense professional military education institutions.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Support for expanding early child care options for members of the Armed Forces and their families

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 579) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to authorize the Secretaries of the military departments to support eligible childcare providers in their recruitment and retention of childcare employees.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than January 1, 2026, on the feasibility and advisability of entering into an interagency partnership with another Federal agency with the ability to place national service participants and volunteers trained in education services at military child development centers in accordance with applicable national service laws.

Waiver authority for Junior Reserve Officer's training Corps minimum participation requirement

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 582) that would amend section 2031(b) of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the military department concerned to issue a 5-year waiver of the minimum student participation requirement in order for a school to establish a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) unit, if the school meets all other statutory requirements for JROTC participation.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Authority to award or present a decoration following a congressionally requested review

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 591) that would amend section 1130 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the award of a decoration following a submission of a favorable recommendation for the award, after a 60-day congressional review period.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

National Commission on Quality of Life for the All-Volunteer Armed Force

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 596) that would establish an independent commission in the legislative branch to be known as the Commission on Quality of Life for the All-Volunteer Armed Force.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Department of Defense process for sharing military service data with states

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5521) that would enact the Military and Education Data Integration Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that some secondary schools fail to provide meaningful access to military recruiters. As such, we direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing, not later than April 1, 2025, on the feasibility of developing a secure data sharing process between the Department of Defense and state education agencies. The report shall address, at a minimum, the following: (1) The cost of establishing a database that state education agencies may access; (2) The type of data that the Department of Defense could share with the state education agencies; (3) The type of data that the state education agencies could share with the Department of Defense; and (4) The anticipated benefits of sharing that data for both the Department of Defense and the state education agencies.

Review of special education processes and procedures of Department of Defense Education Activity

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5572) that would require the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) to review the special education processes and procedures in place within DODEA to locate, identify (through screening or other evidence-based tools), evaluate, and refer children with disabilities from birth to age 21 and provide evidence-based interventions and supports for students with disabilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than January 1, 2026, on special education processes and procedures in DODEA schools. Such briefing shall include the following:

(1) The processes DODEA uses to locate, screen, and identify children with deficiencies in early literacy skill development and specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia;

(2) The number of DODEA students with deficiencies in early literacy skills or specific learning disabilities;

(3) The staffing ratio standards, credentials and certifications, and professional development requirements for staff who support children with early literacy deficits and specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia;

(4) The curriculum and interventions DODEA uses to support literacy skill development for students with early literacy deficits and specific learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia; and

(5) Any differences in the above-mentioned areas by region or district across DODEA.

Establishment of program to promote participation of foreign students in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5595) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a program to promote the participation of foreign students in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

**TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL
BENEFITS**

SUBTITLE A—BASIC PAY, RETIRED PAY, AND LEAVE

Sec. 601 - Reform of basic pay rates

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1801) that would increase basic pay for all grades by 4.5 percent, except for pay grades E-1 through E-4, which would increase by an average of 15 percent.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 601) that would reform basic pay rates by increasing monthly basic pay for junior enlisted servicemembers in the grades of E-1 through E-3.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would adjust the pay tables for fiscal year 2025, effective April 1, 2025, to increase junior enlisted pay by 10 percent.

Sec. 602 - Policy on postpartum physical fitness tests and body composition assessments

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 601) that would amend section 701(k) of title 10, United States Code, to include pregnancy as a waivable condition for participation in the Physical Fitness Tests and Body Composition Assessments.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would narrow the scope of this provision to apply only to members of the Armed Forces who have given birth, lost a pregnancy, or had a stillbirth.

Sec. 603 - Extension of parental leave to members of the Coast Guard Reserve

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 602) that would extend parental leave to members of the Coast Guard Reserve.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 604 - Elimination of cap on additional retired pay for extraordinary heroism for members of the Army and Air Force who served during the Vietnam Era

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 604) that would amend sections 1402, 7361, and 9361 of title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the cap on additional retired pay for extraordinary heroism for members of the Army and Air Force who served during the Vietnam era.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 605 - Calculation of retired pay for certain officers who served in grade O-9 or O-10 and retired in grade O-8

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 621) that would amend section 1407 of title 10, United States Code, to create a special rule for officers having served in the temporary grades of O-9 or O-10 and who receive a conditional or permanent retirement in the grade of O-8. The provision would require that such officer's final retirement pay be the lower of the amount calculated under the high-three year average formula pursuant to section 1407, or the final pay formula for members of the Armed Forces under section 1406 of title 10, United States Code, as if such officer first became a member of the Armed Forces prior to September 8, 1980.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE B—BONUS AND INCENTIVE PAYS

Sec. 611 - One-year extension of certain expiring bonus and special pay authorities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 612) that would extend, through December 31, 2024, certain expiring bonus and special pay authorities relating to Reserve forces; health care professionals; nuclear officers; consolidated special, incentive, and bonus authorities under title 37, United States Code; and temporary increases in rates of basic allowance for housing.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 611).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 612 - Increase in accession bonus for health professions scholarship and financial assistance program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 613) that would amend section 2128 of title 10, United States Code, to increase the maximum accession bonus for the health professions scholarship and financial assistance program from \$20,000 to \$100,000.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 613 - Increase in maximum skill proficiency bonus amount

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 612) that would amend section 353(c)(2) of title 37, United States Code, to increase the maximum annual skill proficiency bonus authorized under such section to \$55,000.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE C—ALLOWANCES

Sec. 621 - Basic needs allowance for members on active service in the Armed Forces: expansion of eligibility; increase of amount

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1804) that would amend section 402b of title 37, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the Basic Needs Allowance to those qualifying households earning up to 200 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 622 - Authority to pay basic allowance for housing to junior enlisted members on sea duty

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1805) that would amend section 403(f) of title 37, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the military department concerned to authorize the payment of a Basic Allowance for Housing to a member of the uniformed services without dependents who is serving in a pay grade below E-6 and is assigned to initial field or sea duty.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 603).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 623 - Reimbursement of expenses relating to travel for inactive-duty training and muster duty

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5621) that would require the Secretary of Defense to revise the Joint Travel Regulations maintained under section 464 of title 37, United States Code, to ensure that if a member of a reserve component drives a vehicle of the member to inactive-duty training, the member may be paid a mileage allowance for the mileage driven by the member.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse members of the reserve component who travel more than 50 miles to attend inactive-duty training and muster duty for their actual and necessary expenses of travel and transportation; and to pay meals, incidentals, and expenses related to such travel to the same extent specified in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37, United States Code, for a member on official travel. The amendment would not be effective until January 1, 2027.

Sec. 624 - Expansion of travel and transportation allowance to move or store privately owned vehicles

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1806) that would amend section 453 of title 37, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Defense to authorize shipment and storage of up to two privately owned vehicles per household during permanent change of station moves to certain non-foreign and foreign overseas duty locations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 625 - Extension of authority to pay one-time uniform allowance for officers who transfer to the Space Force

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 614) that would amend section 606 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) to extend the authority for the Secretary of the Air Force to pay a one-time uniform allowance to officers who transfer to the Space Force.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 626 - Travel and transportation allowances: prohibition of requirement of zero-emission vehicle

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 623) that would prohibit any travel or transport allowance paid pursuant to the Joint Travel Regulations for the Uniformed Services to require that such travel or transportation be in a zero-emission vehicle.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would ensure that servicemembers with personally-owned zero-emission vehicles are still eligible.

Sec. 627 - Evaluation of the rates of the basic allowance for subsistence

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1803) that would require the Secretary of Defense to evaluate the current calculation model for servicemember basic allowance for subsistence and to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding such evaluation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 628 - Report regarding the calculation of cost-of-living allowances

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1807) that would require the Secretary of Defense to evaluate the current calculation methods for cost-of-living allowances for locations both inside and outside the continental United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE D—FAMILY AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Sec. 631 - Expansion of eligibility for certain benefits that arise from the death of a member of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 631) that would amend section 1475(a) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the payment of a death gratuity and casualty assistance for ROTC cadets who die as the result of a sanctioned training event.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 632 - Extension of time for minor survivors to file death gratuity claims

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 622) that would amend section 1480 of title 10, United States Code, to extend the time of eligibility for certain minor survivors to file death gratuity claims for survivor compensation to the date that is the later of 3 years after the affected individual reaches 21 years of age, or 6 years after the death with respect to which the claim is made.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 633 - Parent fees at military child development centers for child care employees

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1812) that would amend section 1793 of title 10, United States Code, to require all military services to cover 100 percent of childcare fees for the first child of staff enrolled in the Department of Defense Child Development Program and would authorize the military services to cover up to 100 percent of childcare fees for any additional children of such staff.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 634 - Information regarding paternal engagement on website of Military OneSource

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 633) that would amend section 561 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) to require the Military OneSource website to include information regarding paternal engagement programs.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE E—DEFENSE RESALE MATTERS

Sec. 641 - Prohibition on sale of garlic from the People's Republic of China at commissary stores

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 629) that would amend section 2484 of title 10, United States Code, to prohibit the sale in commissary stores of garlic originating from, or processed in, the People's Republic of China.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would limit the restrictions of the provision to fresh or chilled garlic originating from the People's Republic of China.

Sec. 642 - Sale of certain supplies of the Navy and Marine Corps to certain former members of the Coast Guard

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 643) that would authorize members of the Coast Guard to purchase certain supplies.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE F—OTHER BENEFITS, REPORTS, AND BRIEFINGS

Sec. 651 - Access to broadband internet access service for certain members of the Armed Forces

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 623) that would amend chapter 134 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretaries of the military departments to provide, without charge, high-speed internet access and wireless network connections to members of the Armed Forces who reside in unaccompanied housing within the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a policy and issue guidance to the military departments on the implementation of the authority.

Sec. 652 - Extension of exclusion of certain employees from Government lodging program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 624) that would amend section 914 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) to extend the termination date of the pilot program established under that section to December 31, 2029; to exempt certain public shipyard workers from the Department of Defense Government Lodging Program; and to require annual briefings on the use of the exemptions under the program through February 1, 2030.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 653 - Promotion of tax preparation assistance programs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 651) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that servicemembers are aware of various tax preparation assistance programs.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would authorize the required tax assistance notification to be provided through electronic means.

Sec. 654 - Pilot program to increase access to food on military installations of the Army

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1851) that would increase access to food on military installations by permitting servicemembers who reside in unaccompanied housing on a military installation to use their common access card to pay for meals at dining facilities, restaurants, and commissaries.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Army to implement a pilot program to make food available to certain servicemembers under the pilot program using a common access card or other similar means.

We direct the Secretaries of the Air Force and Navy to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than January 1, 2026, on the feasibility and advisability of implementing a pilot program to increase access to food on military installations of their respective military departments.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Prohibition on exposing members of the Armed Forces to Chinese military company investments through the Thrift Savings Plan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 603) that would prohibit investment in the Thrift Savings Plan mutual fund window if any mutual fund holds a Chinese military company.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Expansion of bereavement leave

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 605) that would amend section 701 of title 10, United States Code, to expand military bereavement to 12 weeks.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Program to assist servicemembers at risk of suicide

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 606) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the Defense Health Agency, to develop and implement a centralized program to monitor and provide assistance to members of the Armed Forces at risk of suicide who have been recently discharged from health care, as outlined in Recommendation 6.29 of the final report issued by the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Incentive pay: explosive ordnance disposal duty

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 611) that would add a new section to chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, requiring the Secretary of Defense to make certain improvements to incentive pay for explosive ordnance disposal duty.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that in the Senate report accompanying S. 2226 (S. Rept. 118-58) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, the Secretary of Defense was required to

examine and make recommendations pertaining to the establishment of an analytical framework for special and incentive pays authorized under title 37, United States Code, and to issue a report on special and incentive pays and such analytical framework to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. This report is still pending.

Assignment incentive pay for members assigned to Creech Air Force Base and Naval Air Station Fallon

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 613) that would allow the Secretary concerned to designate the assignment of a member of the Armed Forces to Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, or Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada, as an assignment that makes the member eligible for assignment incentive pay under section 307a of title 37, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that in the Senate report accompanying S. 2226 (S. Rept. 118-58) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, the Secretary of Defense was required to examine and make recommendations pertaining to the establishment of an analytical framework for special and incentive pays authorized under title 37, United States Code, and to issue a report on special and incentive pays and such analytical framework to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. This report is still pending.

Basic needs allowance: exclusion of basic allowance for housing from the calculation of gross household income of an eligible member of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 621) that would modify how gross household income is calculated for purposes of determining a servicemember's eligibility for a basic needs allowance.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that quality of life measures, including increases in basic pay and other allowances, are addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Basic allowance for housing: pilot program to outsource rate calculation

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 622) that would establish a pilot program to evaluate the method by which the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rate is calculated.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Secretary of Defense is currently in the process of finalizing the fourteenth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation, which will address and make recommendations about the method for calculating BAH.

Sense of Congress on increase to the family separation allowance

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 624) that would express the sense of Congress regarding an increase to the family separation allowance.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We urge the Secretary of Defense to review the family separation allowance to determine whether it is adequate to meet the needs of military families and to make adjustments to such allowance as appropriate.

Payment instead of reimbursement for the transportation of certain remains to two locations if the second location is a national cemetery

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 632) that would amend section 1482 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Department of Defense (DOD) to contract for the dignified transportation of the remains of certain servicemembers to a second location if the second location is a national cemetery.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than May 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of amending section 1482 of title 10, United States Code, to require DOD to contract for the transportation of the remains of servicemembers to a second location, if the second location is a national cemetery. Such briefing shall address the following: (1) Current process and reimbursement procedures; (2) Current length of time to process funeral claims; (3) The impact or concerns with contracting law; (4) The means by which the Secretary may improve such process to reduce

the time described in item (2); and (5) Any legislative recommendations to improve such processes to reduce the time described in item (2).

Military OneSource for a remarried surviving spouse of a deceased member of the Armed Forces: eligibility; information

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 634) that would expand eligibility of the Military OneSource program to remarried surviving spouses of deceased members of the Armed Forces. Further, it would require the Secretary of Defense to publish and maintain casualty assistance information on the Military OneSource website for these surviving spouses.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We understand the important resource Military OneSource is for servicemembers, veterans, and their families. Currently, there are varying timeframes of access to Military OneSource after retirement or discharge, and even after remarriage. We understand that certain portions of Military OneSource require Common Access Card (CAC) access, but it is unclear what requires a CAC versus what does not. To better understand the access concerns and potential benefits of expanding the period of availability, we direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives, no later than September 30, 2025, on: (1) Existing access regulations for Military OneSource; (2) Rationale behind the existing access regulations; (3) Rationale for CAC access on Military OneSource and any relevant security concerns for removing CAC requirements; (4) Recommendations for periods of access for retired and discharged servicemembers and their families, to include any concerns with expanding the timeframe for access; (5) Recommendations for an appropriate timeline for access to Military OneSource that are consistent across varying groups of individuals; and (6) Any relevant legislative changes that are required to adjust access standards.

Guide for survivors to claim the personal effects of a deceased member of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 635) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation of the Secretaries of the military departments and not later than September 30, 2025, to publish and post on the website of Military OneSource a guide regarding how a survivor of a

deceased member of the Armed Forces may: (1) Receive the personal effects of such member; and (2) File a claim with the Secretary of the military department concerned if the survivor believes such effects were disposed of incorrectly.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that this information is already provided to the next of kin of a deceased member of the Armed Forces.

Adoption or guardianship assistance for members of the Armed Forces and veterans

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 636) that would amend section 1052 of title 10, United States Code, to expand the eligible assistance to military families that adopt or take legal guardianship of a child.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than April 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of expanding assistance programs available to military members and their families that adopt or take guardianship of a child, including an assessment of whether to expand eligibility for such assistance to include those who take legal guardianship of a child, whether a flat-fee entitlement would be preferable to reimbursing actual costs, and whether and to what extent monetary assistance authorized under existing law should be increased.

Expansion of period of availability of Military OneSource program for retired and discharged members of the Armed Forces and their immediate families

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 637) that would expand the period of eligibility for the Military OneSource program of the Department of Defense of an eligible individual retired, discharged, or otherwise released from the Armed Forces, and for the eligible immediate family members of such an individual.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that Military OneSource eligibility is addressed elsewhere in this report.

Commissary and exchange benefits: expansion for surviving children of members of the uniformed services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 641) that would amend section 1061 of title 10, United States Code, to expand commissary and exchange benefits to surviving children of members of the Armed Forces regardless of age.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Single-use shopping bags in commissary stores

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 642) that would amend section 2485 of title 10, United States Code, to prevent the Defense Commissary Agency from prohibiting the use of, or charging a fee for, single-use shopping bags in a commissary store.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

MWR retail facilities: use by civilian employees of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 644) that would amend chapter 54 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new section to authorize certain current and retired civilian employees of the Department of Defense and such employees of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to use MWR retail facilities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Pilot program to inform members about certain insurance products

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 652) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to inform servicemembers about supplemental insurance products.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 749) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this act, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report valuating the feasibility of establishing a program to facilitate access to supplementary insurance designed to help members of the Armed Forces and their

dependents with financial expenses not currently covered by existing programs related to screening, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

The agreement does not include either provision.

Basic allowance for housing: authorization of appropriations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1802) that would fully fund the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Authority to pay higher rates of partial basic allowance for housing for unaccompanied housing

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 602) that would amend section 2882 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to prescribe and pay to members of the Armed Forces without dependents in military unaccompanied housing higher rates of Partial Basic Allowance for Housing than the rate authorized for under paragraph (o) (2) of such section, not to exceed the full rate of Basic Allowance for Housing for the military housing area concerned.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Extension of travel allowance for members of the Armed Forces assigned to Alaska

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 604) that would amend section 603 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) to reauthorize a travel allowance for military personnel assigned to Alaska during the period of December 1, 2024 to December 1, 2025.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Restrictions on retired and reserve members of the Armed Forces receiving employment and compensation indirectly from foreign governments through private entities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 625) that would amend section 908 of title 37, United States Code, to prohibit retired and reserve members of all

branches of the Armed Forces, except the Coast Guard, from accepting employment, and compensation related to that employment, or payments or awards indirectly from a foreign government through a private entity.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that section 9 of article I of the U.S. Constitution already prohibits retired and reserve members of the uniformed services from accepting any compensation from a foreign government or an entity under foreign government control, including commercial entities owned or controlled by a foreign government and foreign public universities controlled by a foreign government.

Retroactive effective date of promotions of senior officers of Armed Forces that were delayed as a result of suspension of Senate confirmation

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 626) that would authorize the provision of back pay to certain military officers who were confirmed by the Senate between December 5, 2023, and December 31, 2023. The provision would authorize pay starting from that date which is later: the date that is 30 days after the officer was placed on the Senate Executive Calendar, or the date on which the Secretary determines the officer would have been appointed to the grade for which they were nominated.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Fertility and adoption demonstration program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 627) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a fertility and adoption demonstration program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing cash reimbursement and covered pharmacy benefits to eligible Active-Duty members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Selling certain consumer routers and modems on military installations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 628) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that routers and modems sold in any commissary or exchange store

are appropriately labeled to inform customers whether or not the router or modem is designed, manufactured, or developed by persons owned, controlled by, or under the influence of a covered nation.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note the House report accompanying H.R. 8070 (H. Rept. 118-529) of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, requires the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, not later than December 31, 2024, on the national security risks posed by routers, modems, and devices that combine a modem and router, that are designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by entities owned by or controlled by the People's Republic of China. We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide that briefing to both the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, by the stated date.

TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—TRICARE AND OTHER HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

Sec. 701 - Access to specialty behavioral health care under TRICARE Prime

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 706) that would require the Secretary of Defense to monitor access standards for specialty behavioral health care. In the event that the Secretary determines that behavioral health care access in a state does not meet or exceed prescribed access standards for more than 12 consecutive months, the Secretary would be required to expand health care accreditation standards in that state to include credentials issued by state-level organizations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 702 - Reduction or waiver of cost-sharing amounts under TRICARE pharmacy benefits program for certain dependents enrolled in TRICARE Prime Remote program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 702) that would amend section 1076(g), United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to waive or reduce cost-sharing amounts under the TRICARE pharmacy benefits program for dependents of servicemembers who are enrolled in the TRICARE Prime Remote program and who accompany the member at the expense of the Federal Government.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 703 - TRICARE program: waiver of referral requirement under TRICARE Prime for certain care in a military medical treatment facility

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1832) that would amend section 1095f(a) of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to expand direct access to medical appointments in military medical treatment facilities to Active-Duty members who seek certain health care services.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would strike primary and preventive health care services for women from the list of health care services included in the provision.

We note that primary and preventive health care services are already available to Active-Duty members of the Armed Forces without a referral.

Sec. 704 - Extension of effective date regarding certain improvements to the TRICARE dental program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 703) that would amend section 1076a of title 10, United States Code, to extend the time to implement required modifications to the premium sharing plans of the TRICARE dental program to January 1, 2027.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 723).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 705 - Program to prevent perinatal mental health conditions in pregnant and postpartum members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 709) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of providing, through military medical treatment facilities, covered protection

programs to pregnant and postpartum members of the Armed Forces and covered beneficiaries.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to implement certain programs to reduce the incidence of mental health conditions in pregnant and postpartum members of the Armed Forces and their spouses.

Sec. 706 - Guidance on authority to provide travel and transportation allowances for specialty care under exceptional circumstances

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 703) that would require the Secretary of Defense to prescribe regulations, not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, to implement the authority of the Secretary under section 1074i(b) of title 10, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary to issue guidance, not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to the authority of the Secretary under section 1074i(b) of title 10, United States Code.

Sec. 707 - Contraception coverage parity under the TRICARE program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 711) that would eliminate cost-sharing for 1 year for any eligible TRICARE beneficiary for contraceptives acquired through retail pharmacies and the national mail order pharmacy.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 731) that would amend section 1074g of title 10, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Defense from imposing cost share requirements for any covered beneficiary to procure any prescription contraceptive on the uniform formulary, effective October 1, 2034.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would strike the implementation date of October 1, 2034.

Sec. 708 - Prohibition of coverage under TRICARE program of certain medical procedures for children that could result in sterilization

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 709) that would amend section 1079 of title 10, United States Code, to prohibit TRICARE from providing to a child, under age 18, affirming hormone therapy, puberty blockers, and any other medical intervention for the treatment of gender dysphoria that could result in sterilization.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would strike the list of specified medical interventions covered by the prohibition on medical interventions that could result in sterilization.

Sec. 709 - Demonstration program on cryopreservation and storage of gametes of certain members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 710) that would establish a one-year pilot program to reimburse Active-Duty servicemembers working in hazardous or isolated conditions for fees associated with the costs of retrieving, shipping, and/or storing gametes at private facilities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would extend the length of the demonstration program to 3 years.

SUBTITLE B—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 711 - Identification in patient medical records of affiliation of certain non-Department of Defense health care providers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 721) that would require identification in patient medical records of affiliation of certain non-Department of Defense health care providers.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 712 - Extension of enhanced appointment and compensation authority for certain health care providers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1833) that would amend section 1599c of title 10, United States Code, to extend enhanced appointment and compensation authorities for

civilian health care professionals for care and treatment of wounded and injured members of the Armed Forces until December 31, 2030.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1103).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 713 - Licensure requirement for certain health care professionals providing certain examinations to members of the reserve components

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 704) that would amend section 1094(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize license portability for health care providers who provide medical services under the Reserve Health Readiness Program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 714 - Health care licensure portability for TRICARE network providers providing mental health services to members of the Armed Forces and certain family members

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 701) that would amend section 1094 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to prescribe regulations to allow mental health providers who provide care under the TRICARE program to provide tele-mental health care services to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents without regard to the location of the provider or the patient.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

We direct the Director of the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to provide a briefing, not later than September 30, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the results of a study to determine how to increase access of TRICARE beneficiaries to telehealth services of the DHA.

Sec. 715 - Expansion of recognition by the Defense Health Agency of certifying bodies for physicians

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 729) that would direct the Defense Health Agency to expand the recognition of certifying bodies for physicians to a broader range of

additional board certifications in medical specialties and subspecialties.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would add to the standards for recognition of other certifying bodies a requirement that such bodies meet other requirements that the Secretary of Defense may establish for purposes of compliance with applicable state laws and the promotion of consistency in coverage and care across the military medical system.

Sec. 716 - Waiver with respect to experienced nurses at military medical treatment facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1835) that would authorize the hiring manager of a military medical treatment facility or other health care facility of the Department of Defense to waive any General Schedule qualification standard related to work experience, established by the Office of Personnel Management, for certain nurse or practical nurse applicants for a position in Department of Defense medical treatment facilities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 5741).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 717 - Improved implementation of financial relief for civilians treated in military medical treatment facilities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 722) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue a final rule, or interim final rule, to implement section 1079(b) of title 10, United States Code, relating to financial relief for civilians who receive medical care in a military medical facility; and require the Secretary to hold in abeyance certain claims under this statute until the final rule, or interim final rule, is in effect.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 718 - Retention of health care providers: surveys; briefing; reports

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1837) that would direct each of the Secretaries of the military departments to conduct a survey of military health care providers to

determine the reasons why military providers remain in service or separate.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE C—MATTERS RELATING TO BRAIN HEALTH

Sec. 721 - Establishment of Defense Intrepid Network for Traumatic Brain Injury and Brain Health as program of record

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 712) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish the Defense Intrepid Network for Traumatic Brain Injury and Brain Health as a program of record— subject to milestone reviews and compliance with the requirements established by the provision.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 722 - Brain health and trauma program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 743) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility of recognizing transitional and residential brain injury treatment programs, approved by non-governmental accreditation bodies, to provide services to members of covered Armed Forces who sustained a brain injury in the course of performing active duty.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 713) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an intensive comprehensive brain health and trauma demonstration program to provide coordinated, integrated, multi-specialist evaluations, treatment initiation, and aftercare coordination in a highly condensed model for members of the Armed Forces and their families.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require one or more pilot programs for demonstrating the effectiveness of intensive outpatient multidisciplinary specialist treatment and care coordination; mandate the inclusion of Defense Health Agency initiatives related to treatment of traumatic brain injuries; remove the requirement that the study last for four years; and remove the requirement for the Secretary to seek to enter into an agreement with private non-sector organizations.

Secs. 723 - 725 - Matters relating to brain health

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 728 and sec. 731) that would make certain improvements to the Warfighter Brain Health Initiative.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained similar provisions (sec. 711, sec. 1081, and sec. 1093).

The agreement includes the House provisions with an amendment that would remove a requirement in House section 728 for a Comptroller General report; include the substantive requirements of Senate section 711 with technical and conforming changes; include the substantive requirements of Senate section 1093 but without such section's reporting requirements; and incorporate certain requirements related to roles and responsibilities to mitigate, identify, and treat traumatic brain injury from Senate section 1081.

SUBTITLE D—STUDIES, BRIEFINGS, REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 731 - Treatment of expert medical opinions with respect to medical malpractice claims by members of the uniformed services

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 742) that would amend section 2733a of title 10, United States Code, to require that a medical expert be board-certified in the medical specialty related to the claim for which the individual is providing an expert medical opinion.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense, when using an expert medical opinion to evaluate a medical malpractice claim by members of the uniformed services, to use individuals who are board-certified in the medical specialty associated with the claim or an individual who is highly qualified for claims involving medical, dental, or related health care functions for which board certifications do not apply.

Sec. 732 - Annual reports on medical malpractice claims by members of the Uniformed Services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1731) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report on the rates at which Department of Defense awards settlements in medical malpractice claims by

members of the uniformed services under part 45 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, including (1) a comparison of such rates to the rates at which settlements are awarded in similar civilian medical malpractice claims; and (2) recommendations for improvements to the system for medical malpractice claims by members of the uniformed services.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would amend section 2733a of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to submit an annual report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on medical malpractice claims by members of the Uniformed Services.

Sec. 733 - Expansion of license reciprocity for veterinarians of Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 351) that would amend section 1060c of title 10, United States Code, to authorize Department of Defense (DOD) veterinarians to provide veterinary services in any state, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States, if the provision of such services is within the scope of the veterinarian's authorized DOD duties.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 743).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 734 - Medical countermeasures for overseas personnel of the Department of Defense for acute radiation syndrome and thermal burns

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 723) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish requirements for the procurement and pre-positioning of treatments for acute radiation syndrome and thermal burns incurred by servicemembers assigned to duty locations outside of the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 724).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 735 - Establishment of Indo-Pacific medical readiness program

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 734 and 1304) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to conduct a study to determine the requirements for combat medical support during a crisis or conflict in the Indo-Pacific.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 721) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a medical readiness program with countries in the Indo-Pacific region for access to foreign medical facilities during peacetime and wartime operations.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would expand the objectives of the program.

Sec. 736 - Reports on suicide among members of the Armed Forces and suicide prevention programs and activities of the Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 747) that would amend section 741 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92), as amended by section 742 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), by extending the requirement for the Secretary of Defense to provide annual reports on suicide through January 31, 2031.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

We note that the Department has declined to report suicide information under the existing requirements of section 741 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) when incomplete data exists. In these instances, we urge the Department to include as much information as possible in the report rather than rejecting all data for such years due to incompleteness. We also urge the Department to include raw data in addition to information about rates of suicide as a way to provide some insight on military suicide, even if the full data for a given year is incomplete.

Sec. 737 - Study of immune response and other effects on members of the Armed Forces regarding COVID-19 vaccines

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 742) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study to blood test members of the Armed Forces relating to COVID-19 vaccines.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would remove the study mandate and instead require the Secretary of Defense to conduct assessments of existing scientific data related to COVID-19 vaccines; and authorize a study related to such assessments using research volunteers.

Sec. 738 - Annual report on recruitment delays relating to medical conditions

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 726) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a plan to address recruitment processing delays associated with the electronic health record system of the Department of Defense; and to implement the recommendations of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense in its report entitled, "Review of the Military Services' Policies and Procedures on the Medical Waiver Process for Recruiting" (DODIG 2023-072).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would strike the portions of the provision related to developing a plan to address recruitment delays and implementing the Inspector General recommendations; and limit the annual reporting requirement to three years, beginning not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Sec. 739 - Plan to improve access by members of the Armed Forces to safe, high-quality pharmaceuticals

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 744) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a plan to ensure access by members of the Armed Forces to safe, high-quality pharmaceutical products and eliminate or mitigate risks in the pharmacy supply chain of the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary to develop a plan to improve access to safe, high-quality pharmaceuticals in coordination with the Military Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Vulnerability Working Group.

Sec. 740 - Pilot program on delegation of authority to approve reserve component recruits with certain medical conditions

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 745) that would require the Secretary of Defense to implement a pilot program that authorizes and directs the Secretaries of the military departments to delegate authority to the United States Military Entrance Processing Command to approve a service medical waiver for a set list of otherwise disqualifying conditions.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would limit the number of medical conditions included in the pilot program to three conditions that are regularly or automatically given waivers under existing policy; and limit the scope to military recruits for the Reserve Component.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Assisted reproductive technology for certain members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under TRICARE

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 701) that would provide assisted reproductive technology services to servicemembers and their dependents.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 705) that would amend chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, to require that fertility treatments be covered under TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select without regard to the sex, sex characteristics, gender identity, sexual orientation, diagnosis, or marital status of a servicemember or dependent.

The agreement does not include either provision.

TRICARE dental plan for the Selected Reserve

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 702) that would amend section 1076a of title 10, United States Code, to provide free dental care to members of the Selected Reserve and their family members.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognized the importance of this issue in section 707 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) which authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility of expanding eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select and the TRICARE Dental Program to all members of the Selected Reserve, their

dependents, and non-dependent children under the age of 26—including potential cost effects to the Department of Defense, changes in out-of-pocket costs to beneficiaries, and effects on other Federal programs.

We are pleased that the Department contracted with a federally funded research and development center to develop the study's methodology and approach and eagerly await the findings and recommendations which are due in December 2024.

Expansion of Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 705) that would clarify the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program grant process.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We understand that there were concerns with the previous contracting model for the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program. The original intent of the program stands and should provide support through competitive grants to eligible organizations that train and furnish service dogs. We encourage the Uniform Services University of Health Sciences to continue supporting the program with such intent.

Reimbursements under the TRICARE program to cancer and children's hospitals for outpatient care of beneficiaries

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 706) that would require the Secretary of Defense to consider the adequacy of the TRICARE network and availability of specialized health care services when evaluating an application for a general temporary military contingency payment adjustment.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than July 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on applications, payments, and adjustments to reimbursement amounts. The briefing should include the following elements:

(1) A list of payment mechanisms available to the Secretary to make a reimbursement;

(2) A list of the authorities for such payment mechanisms;

(3) A list of the payment adjustments that the Secretary may make to a reimbursement amount;

(4) The factors the Secretary considers when determining whether to make a payment adjustment;

(5) Whether the Secretary measures the effects of a change to a reimbursement or payment adjustment when determining whether to continue the adjustment;

(6) Any identified differences in diagnoses or complexity of care for pediatric TRICARE outpatients at children's hospitals and at other hospitals;

(7) The extent to which differences in such payments reflect differences in the complexity of care for patients; and

(8) Recently identified trends in the use of children's hospital services by pediatric TRICARE patients.

Notices to a dependent child regarding impending loss of coverage under TRICARE program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 707) that would require the Department of Defense to notify a beneficiary and their military sponsor within one year of their twenty-first birthday about options for TRICARE coverage; and authorize the spouse of a military member to complete identification card renewals for such beneficiaries.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Pilot program to treat pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 708) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to establish a 5-year pilot program that would designate pregnancy as a qualifying life event under the TRICARE program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Senate report accompanying S. 4638 (S. Rept. 118-188) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 requires the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than February 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the feasibility and advisability of the proposed policy change in the House provision.

TRICARE coverage for increased supply for contraception

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 712) that would require TRICARE coverage for a year's supply of contraceptives for any eligible covered beneficiary.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We understand that the Department of Defense currently has authority to dispense up to a year's supply of contraceptives and that studies have found this to achieve substantial cost savings. We encourage the Defense Health Agency to improve access to contraception by reducing barriers to providing adequate contraceptive supplies.

Prohibition on coverage of certain gender transition procedures and related services under TRICARE program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 713) that would amend chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new section that would prohibit the Department of Defense from providing gender transition surgeries and hormone treatments for individuals who identify as transgender.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibition on payment and reimbursement by Department of Defense of expenses relating to abortion services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 714) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from paying for or reimbursing any fees or expenses, including travel expenses, related to a health care professional gaining a license in a state when the purpose of gaining such license is to provide abortion services.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Mandatory training on health effects of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 722) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide training to each health care provider of the Department of Defense on the potential health effects of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Partnerships with civilian organizations for arthroscopic surgical training

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 724) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish partnerships with public, private, and non-profit entities to provide short-term arthroscopic surgery training to Department of Defense physicians.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We understand that the Department of Defense (DOD) currently meets training requirements for orthopedic surgeons within the current system. General Medical Education orthopedic surgery residencies and fellowships are the primary avenues for developing advanced arthroscopic skills for DOD surgeons. Surgeons requiring additional advanced arthroscopic skills actively participate in professional medical training courses as part of their ongoing medical education. As new training needs emerge, the military services will assess, develop, and deliver advanced orthopedic training programs.

Women's heart health educational material: development; distribution

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 725) that would require the Department of Defense to develop and disseminate evidence-based educational materials on women's heart health to both providers and patients in the military health system.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We encourage the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the Department adequately educates patients in the military health system about women's heart health.

Protocol on use of oral rehydration solution

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 726) that would direct the Department of Defense to develop protocols for the use of oral rehydration solution (ORS) in preventing heat casualties, dehydration, and hyponatremia in initial training.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that, pursuant to a requirement in the House report accompanying H.R. 2670 (H. Rept. 118-125) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, the Secretary of Defense provided a briefing, in January 2024, to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives regarding heat-related injuries to servicemembers during initial entry training. In the briefing, the Secretary comprehensively addressed the Department's use of ORS— noting that ORS remains an important medical therapy to treat medical conditions resulting in dehydration but that ORS is poorly suited as a maintenance solution to correct hypohydration caused by sweat losses during heat exertion. Further, the Secretary noted that existing medical literature does not support the use of ORS to reduce the incidence or severity of heat injury— as ORS is specifically formulated to replace electrolytes lost from disease processes whereas heat injury is not caused by loss of electrolytes.

Study on lifting outpatient rehabilitation therapy maximums

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 727) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility of increasing outpatient rehabilitation therapy maximums and examine a range of therapy services, including restorative therapies, for certain members of the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Improvements to TRICARE provider directories

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 729A) that would require a managed care support contractor that supports TRICARE and maintains a directory of health care providers to verify and update such directory not less than every 90 days; and require the Director of the Defense Health Agency to review these directories not less than once each year.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We understand that the new T-5 health care contracts that will commence health care delivery on or about January 1, 2025, will impose more stringent requirements for provider directories— including a requirement to refresh network provider directories with any updated information at least once every 24 hours.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than July 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the implementation of these new, more stringent contractual requirements and on actions taken by the Department in response to the Government Accountability Office report titled "Defense Health Care: DOD Should Improve Accuracy of Behavioral Health Provider Information in TRICARE Directories" (GAO-24-106588), published on July 08, 2024.

Combating obesity in certain Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 729B) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategy to align the obesity-related programs of the Department of Defense with the classification of obesity as a medically accepted disease and conduct an educational campaign to promote awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of obesity as a disease in the covered Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the House report accompanying H.R. 8070 (H. Rept. 118-529) of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 requires the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than March 1, 2025, to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on current efforts in the Department of Defense related to obesity.

Podiatrists in the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 729C) that would amend section 532(b) of title 10, United States Code, by inserting "podiatry" after "osteopathy"; and direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure that podiatrists are assigned to the medical corps of each military department.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on medical instrument sterilization

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 729D) that would require the Inspector General of the Defense Health Agency to provide a report on the adequacy of sterilization of medical instruments at medical facilities of the Defense Health Agency.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a report, not later than December 31, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the adequacy of sterilization of medical instruments at medical facilities of the Defense Health Agency. The briefing should include the following elements:

(1) A description of the processes or checks used to ensure medical instruments are sterilized prior to use on patients at medical facilities of the Defense Health Agency;

(2) A description of the policies and processes used to identify and mitigate the use of insufficiently sterilized medical instruments at such medical facilities and the processes and timelines for informing patients of any such near-miss;

(3) An identification of the aggregate number of adverse events or near-misses as a result of insufficiently sterilized medical instruments at such medical facilities during the period beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2024;

(4) A determination of primary factors that result in insufficiently sterilized medical instruments at such medical facilities;

(5) A description of the extent to which unsterilized medical instruments have impacted the operation of such medical facilities;

(6) An assessment of whether such medical facilities have sufficient:

(a) medical instruments;

(b) medical devices to timely clean and sterilize medical instruments; and

(c) staff to sterilize medical instruments;

(7) An assessment of whether staff at such medical facilities are adequately trained to sterilize medical instruments;

(8) A identification of the number of surgeries at such medical facilities that were delayed or rescheduled as a result of unsterilized medical instruments or unavailability of trained staff to sterilize medical instruments in advance of surgery;

(9) Recommendations to improve the sterilization of medical instruments at such medical facilities, including an identification and evaluation of existing options, such as mobile sterilization units and coordinating with community medical centers to expand surgical capacity; and

(10) Any other relevant matters that the Secretary deems necessary or appropriate.

Study on testosterone levels of members of Army special operations forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 732) that would direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to conduct a 5-year study on the impact of trainings and deployments on testosterone levels of certain covered members of the Armed Forces and the potential repercussions to the long-term health for such members and the readiness of the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than May 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on medical interventions available in the military health system for the treatment of low testosterone— including the Department's current protocols for testing and screening of low testosterone among members of the Armed Forces— and whether and to what extent high-stress operating environments are linked to low testosterone among servicemembers.

Report on use of Agent Orange on Guam

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 733) that would direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to provide a report that details when and where Agent Orange was used on the island of Guam and known diseases or disabilities that can result from exposure to Agent Orange.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than December 31, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the use of Agent Orange in Guam.

The briefing should include the following elements:

(1) The exact dates on which Agent Orange was used on Guam;

(2) An identification of any known or suspected sites in Guam that were used to dump Agent Orange;

(3) An identification of any specific area where Agent Orange was used in Guam; and

(4) Any other relevant matters that the Secretary deems necessary or appropriate.

Report on access of TRICARE beneficiaries to network retail pharmacies

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 735) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on beneficiary access to TRICARE network pharmacies under the TPharm5 contract and changes in beneficiary access compared to the TPharm4 contract.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Senate report accompanying S. 2226 (S. Rept. 118-58) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 directed the Comptroller General of the United States to review the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefits Program— including changes in its most recently awarded nationwide pharmacy contract— with respect to its effect on TRICARE beneficiaries' access to medications that they need in a timely manner as prescribed by their physicians. We expect to receive this report in the near future.

Report on copayments for mental or behavioral health care under TRICARE

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 736) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on TRICARE cost sharing for outpatient visits for mental health or behavioral health care.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than April 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the implementation of cost-sharing waivers for mental health outpatient visits under section 701 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

Pilot program to test standalone technology to improve efficiencies in supply-chain management, medical readiness, and medical processes

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 737) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to test and evaluate existing standalone technology to improve supply-chain management, medical readiness, and medical processes.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Pilot program on pre-programming of suicide prevention resources into smart devices issued to members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 738) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program on pre-programming of suicide prevention resources onto servicemembers' smart devices.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on rate of maternal mortality among members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 739) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the rate of maternal mortality among members of the Armed Forces and the dependents of such members.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that, in August 2022, the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives received a report from the Department of Defense in response to the Senate report accompanying S. 2792 (S. Rept. 117-39) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 that demonstrated consistent high quality of perinatal health care services in the direct care component of the military health system. According to the report, the pregnancy-related mortality ratio in such component was 2.91 deaths per 100,000 live births as compared to 23.80 deaths per 100,000 live births in civilian hospitals. Furthermore, we note that the military health system collaborates with external organizations, such as the Leapfrog Group, to adopt leading practices to decrease maternal mortality further. We commend the providers in the military health system for their efforts to prevent pregnancy-related mortality and

encourage them to continue promoting innovative practices to assess and treat maternal mental health conditions.

Annual review and update of online information relating to suicide prevention

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 740) that would require the Secretaries of the military departments to review and certify suicide prevention policies each year as well as update online contact information.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the conference report accompanying H.R. 2670 (H. Rept. 118-301) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 directed the Secretary of Defense to review publicized information on suicide prevention and behavioral health and to provide a briefing, not later than June 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the results of such review.

Report on emergency and trauma care for civilians at military treatment facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 741) that would require the Director of the Defense Health Agency to provide a report on emergency and trauma care for civilians at military treatment facilities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than June 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the efforts of the Director of the Defense Health Agency to address the issues identified in the Government Accountability Office report published on July 7, 2022, titled "Defense Health Care: Actions Needed to Improve Billing and Collection of Debt for Civilian Emergency Care" (GAO-22-104770), including such issues related to inconsistent use of financial relief for civilian emergency patients and the lack of guidance to ensure accurate accounting of billing and collections efforts.

Study and report on mental health care for pilots and aviators

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 744) that would direct the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Health and

Human Services to conduct a study on the barriers to mental health care for military pilots, aviators, and military air traffic controllers.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Study on tools to diagnose traumatic brain injury in members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 745) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study of commercial diagnostic tools that screen for traumatic brain injury for potential use by forward-deployed units and in combat zones.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that traumatic brain injury diagnosis and treatment is addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Study on use of routine neuroimaging modalities in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of brain injury due to blast pressure exposure during combat and training

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 746) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility and effectiveness of routine neuroimaging modalities for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of brain injury among members of the Armed Forces due to one or more blast pressure exposures during combat and training.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that, pursuant to a Secretary of Defense memorandum dated August 8, 2024, titled "Department of Defense Requirements for Managing Brain Health Risks from Blast Overpressure," the Department of Defense is already taking steps to mitigate blast exposure during combat and training.

Clarification of responsibilities regarding the integrated disability evaluation system

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 747) that would amend section 1073c of title 10, United States Code, to enhance the operational and administrative control of servicemembers who are being considered by a medical evaluation board or are

otherwise subject to the integrated disability evaluation system.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Study on accessibility of mental health care providers and services for active duty members of the Armed Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 748) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study to determine whether and to what extent Active Duty servicemembers have adequate access to mental health care providers and services.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than August 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on whether and to what extent members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty have adequate access to mental health care providers and services.

Requirement to maintain prescription drop boxes at military installations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 749) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that each military installation under the jurisdiction of the Secretary has one or more prescription drop boxes to facilitate the safe disposal of unused prescription drugs— including opioids.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Department of Defense has an existing program that includes drug take-back drop boxes and mail-back envelopes at all military treatment facilities. This program meets the regulatory requirements of the Drug Enforcement Agency and provides an environmentally safe method for disposal of unused and expired medications— including opioids.

Withholding of funds for failure to submit reports on health conditions of members of the Armed Forces on active duty developed after administration of COVID-19 vaccine

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 750) that would amend section 725(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to reduce funds appropriated for the Office of the Secretary of Defense in the event that the Secretary fails to provide the report, prior to the applicable deadline, on health conditions of Active-Duty servicemembers developed after receiving the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine— as required by that provision.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the required study is ongoing and that the initial report is expected to be submitted in a timely manner.

Health care strategy for members who perform duty in a cold weather location

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 751) that would direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to convene a working group of subject matter experts from the extramural community and military health system to develop a strategy and medical research and development requirements to deliver pre-hospital, life-saving interventions for servicemembers who perform duty in cold weather locations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Study on increased telehealth services of the Defense Health Agency

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 752) that would require the Director of the Defense Health Agency to provide a report on a study to increase TRICARE beneficiaries' access to telehealth services.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that, elsewhere in this bill, we authorize the Secretary of Defense to prescribe regulations to allow mental health providers who provide care under the TRICARE program to provide tele-mental health care services to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents without regard to the location of the provider or the patient.

Annual report on implementation of naloxone distribution

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 753) that would amend section 706 of the National Defense Authorization Act for

Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to require the Secretary of Defense to provide an annual report on the implementation and effectiveness of naloxone distribution to members of the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that section 706 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) requires the the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than January 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the implementation of regulations regarding naloxone and fentanyl on military installations.

Funding for Defense Health programs for education and training

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 754) that would authorize an increase in appropriations, by \$25 million, for Defense Health Program education and training— offset by a corresponding reduction in Base Operations/Communications funding.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Referral of a member of the Armed Forces to a TRICARE provider for urgent behavioral health services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1834) that would require the Secretary of Defense to refer certain beneficiaries to a TRICARE provider in the event that the Secretary cannot provide urgent behavioral health services in a military treatment facility during the three-day period after the services are requested.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Pilot program for hiring health care professionals

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1836) that would establish a pilot program at three military treatment facilities to hire health care professionals under the provisions of title 38, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that Department of Defense authority to exercise authorities available to the Department of Veterans Affairs under chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code, for purposes of the recruitment, employment, and retention of civilian health care professionals, is extended elsewhere in this Act.

Expansion of eligibility for hearing aids to include children of retired members of the uniformed services enrolled in family coverage under TRICARE Select

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 704) that would amend section 1077 of title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hearing aids to include children of retirees enrolled in family coverage under TRICARE Select.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Assessment on options for inclusion of assisted reproductive technology as services covered under the TRICARE program for members of the Armed Forces and dependents

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 707) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment of options for establishing within the military healthcare system a benefit program for in vitro fertilization and associated services for Active-Duty members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Restriction on performance of sex change surgeries

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 708) that would amend chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, to prohibit the use of funds available to the Department of Defense and any Department of Defense facility to perform or facilitate sex change surgeries.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Establishment of public user satisfaction targets related to electronic health record of Defense Health Agency

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 725) that would require the Director of the Defense Health

Agency to establish: (1) Public user satisfaction targets for the electronic health records of the Defense Health Agency (DHA), and (2) Continuous customer feedback mechanisms to better understand issues relating to electronic health records of DHA.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Pregnancy prevention assistance at military medical treatment facilities for sexual assault survivors

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 732) that would amend chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to promptly furnish to sexual assault victims at each military medical treatment facility information about emergency contraceptives approved by the Food and Drug Administration as well as additional information about contraception and the rights of sexual assault survivor confidentiality.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than April 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the resources, information, and counseling support provided to sexual assault victims at military medical treatment facilities.

Education on family planning for members of the Armed Forces

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 733) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a uniform standard curriculum for education programs on family planning for all members of the Armed Forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Inclusion of comprehensive contraceptive counseling in health assessment forms

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 734) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to revise the periodic health assessment and pre-deployment health assessment forms of the Department of Defense to include an opt-in for members of the Armed Forces to receive comprehensive contraceptive counseling.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Infectious disease wastewater surveillance system of Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 746) that would require the development and implementation of an infectious disease wastewater surveillance system of the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Report on plan for testing for helicobacter pylori for certain members of the Armed Forces

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 748) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on a plan, cost estimate, and feasibility study for testing for helicobacter pylori among certain members of the Armed Forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Report on biologic vascular repair

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5742) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the status of developing and integrating innovative biological vascular repair solutions as standard protocol in military trauma care.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that the House report accompanying H.R. 8070 (H. Rept. 118-529) of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 directed the Secretary of Defense to submit a briefing, not later than January 31, 2025, to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on the status of integrating biologic vascular repair solutions as standard protocol in military trauma care— including field-testing and assessment of long-term benefits. We direct the Secretary to provide this briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Study on effectiveness of hearing loss prevention programs

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5743) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the effectiveness of hearing loss prevention programs of the Department of Defense in reducing hearing loss and tinnitus prevalence among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Review on use of monoclonal antibodies for the prevention, treatment, or mitigation of symptoms related to mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5744) that would require the Secretary of Defense to review the policy manual for the TRICARE program relating to the exclusion of the use of monoclonal antibodies for the prevention, treatment, or mitigation of symptoms related to mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review, not later than July 1, 2025, to determine whether reliable evidence establishes that monoclonal antibodies are proven safe and effective for the prevention, treatment, or mitigation of symptoms related to mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease. Further, we direct the Secretary to submit a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that:

- (1) Outlines the review process of the Department for including or excluding the use of monoclonal antibodies;
- (2) Assesses whether the policy of the Department aligns with current science;
- (3) Indicates whether the Military Health System has or is currently restricting access of beneficiaries under the TRICARE program to therapies for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration; and
- (4) indicates whether there are any disparities in treatment for Alzheimer's disease under the TRICARE program in different care delivery settings.

TITLE VIII—ACQUISITION POLICY, ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT, AND RELATED MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—ACQUISITION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Sec. 801 - Modifications to guidelines and collection method for acquisition of cost data

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 875) that would amend section 3227 of title 10, United States Code, to change the threshold on the requirement to collect cost data from acquisition programs greater than \$100.0 million to acquisition programs that exceed the major systems threshold defined in section 3041 of title 10, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 802 - Limitation on certain options for cost contracts

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 821) that would amend section 3322 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize only one low-rate initial production lot using fixed price-type options on cost-type contracts.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 803 - Treatment of unilateral definitization of a contract as a final decision

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 822) that would amend section 3372(b) of title 10, United States Code, to treat the unilateral definitization of a contract by the Department of Defense as the final decision for the purposes of any future appeal by a contractor at the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals or the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 804 - Middle tier of acquisition for rapid prototyping and rapid fielding

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 805) that would amend chapter 253 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Under Secretary of Defense for

Acquisition and Sustainment to establish guidance for a middle tier of acquisition authority for rapid prototyping and rapid fielding and create an expedited process within the rapid prototyping pathway as long as operational capability is fielded within a 5-year period.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 805 - Revision and codification of software acquisition pathways

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 833) that would require procurement programs for unmanned aircraft systems to use separate, parallel acquisition pathways for hardware and software, to the maximum extent possible.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 808).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would allow the Department of Defense to use the software acquisition pathway for nondevelopmental hardware which software is embedded in.

Sec. 806 - Streamlining of Milestone A requirements

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 802) that would amend section 4251 of title 10, United States Code, to streamline the Milestone A approval process for a Major Defense Acquisition Program to enter the technology maturation and risk reduction phase.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 807 - Streamlining of Milestone B requirements

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 801) that would modify section 4252 of title 10, United States Code, to streamline the Milestone B approval process for major defense acquisition programs by focusing decisions on risks in each program and reducing redundant and unnecessary documentation burdens on program managers.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 803).

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 808 - Notice of contract cancellation or termination relating to remote or isolated installations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 803) that would require the Department of Defense to notify Congress when cancelling or terminating a contract, if it involves a reduction in employment of 100 contractor employees or 50 remote and isolated installation contractor employees.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 809 - Cost growth reports for major acquisition programs that are highly sensitive classified programs

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 804) that would amend section 4201 of title 10, United States Code, to remove the exemption of special access programs from the definition of a major defense acquisition program and from the Nunn-McCurdy determination and analysis process.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would, for sensitive classified programs that would otherwise qualify as a major defense acquisition program under section 4201 of title 10, United States Code, and which have started system development and demonstration, require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, to establish guidance requiring that the service acquisition executive submit to the congressional defense committees a cost growth report for such a program when the estimated unit cost for such program has increased by a percentage equal to or greater than the threshold limits found under section 4371 of title 10, United States Code. In addition, the agreement would require that, for programs that exceed the critical cost growth threshold in section 4371 of title 10, United States Code, the service acquisition executive follow procedures under sections 4376 and 4377 of title 10, United States Code.

**SUBTITLE B—AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL
CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES, PROCEDURES, AND
LIMITATIONS**

Sec. 811 - Repeal of and modification to certain defense acquisition laws

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 880) that would make technical amendments to sections 3221, 3225, 3671, 4141, 4204, 4211, 4505, and 4816 of title 10, United States Code, by repealing outdated sections of code and make technical amendments to certain sections of multiple National Defense Authorization Acts.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would keep the repeal of outdated sections of code in this section and move the technical amendments of code to another section of this agreement.

Sec. 812 - Modification to limitation on acquisition of excess supplies

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 878) that would amend section 3070 of title 10, United States Code, to change the limitation on the obligation against a stock fund that would likely result in on-hand inventory of supplies from 2 years of operating stocks to 5 years for supplies related to ship maintenance, repair, and overhaul.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 813 - Modifications to Comptroller General assessment of acquisition programs

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 874) that would amend section 3072 of title 10, United States Code, to modify the Comptroller General of the United States annual assessment of Department of Defense acquisition programs, which is provided to the congressional defense committees, to expand the purview of programs and initiatives reviewed by the Comptroller General.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 814 - Modifications to commercial product and commercial service determinations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 811) that would clarify that a contracting officer may presume that a prior commercial product determination shall serve as a determination for subsequent procurements of components or parts associated with such commercial products and services procured in support of such commercial product for components or parts thereof.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would extend a determination of commerciality to items procured under subcontracts, provided that the Department of Defense contracting officer approves the determination, and extend a determination of commerciality to products that may have changed a part number, but provide substantially the same functionality.

Sec. 815 - Application of recent price history to cost or pricing data requirements

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 812) that would require Department of Defense contracting officers to rely upon historical data of recent prices paid in determining whether the costs of a subcontract, a purchase order or a modification to a subcontract or purchase order are fair and reasonable under certain circumstances.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 816 - Modifications to authority to carry out certain prototype projects using other transaction authority

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 801) that would amend section 4022 of title 10, United States Code, to designate the head of contracting activity as the approval authority for the use of other transaction authority (OTA) between \$100.0 million and \$500.0 million, and the service acquisition executive as the approval authority for OTAs in excess of \$500.0 million and extend the OTA pilot program for installation or facility prototyping to 2030.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would strike the extension of the OTA pilot program for installation or facility prototyping as this extension is dealt with in another section of this bill.

Sec. 817 - Clarification of other transaction authority for follow on production

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 814) that would clarify that follow on production awards may be provided for in

a transaction entered into under section 4022 of title 10, United States Code, for a prototype project.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 818 - Clarification of other transaction authority for facility repair

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 815) that would modify limitations for usage of Other Transaction Authority to clarify that facility repair is not subject to the same limitation as military construction.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would extend the expiration date of the authority.

Sec. 819 - Open interface standards for contracts of the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 879) that would require the Secretary of Defense to make publicly available the open interface standards for contracts awarded by the Secretary, unless the service acquisition executive with respect to a specific contract submits to the Secretary a request to not disclose such standards.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 820 - Updates to earned value management system requirements

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 823) that would amend section 827 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to update the appropriate policies for earned value management (EVM) to increase contract value thresholds associated with requiring EVM on cost or incentive contracts from \$20.0 million to \$50.0 million, and increase the contract value threshold for a contractor to use an EVM system from \$50.0 million to \$100.0 million.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 821 - Inclusion of Japan and the Republic of Korea in contested logistics demonstration and prototyping program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 877) that would amend section 842(h)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) by adding Japan and the Republic of Korea to the contested logistics demonstration and prototyping program.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 822 - Avoidance of use of lowest price technically acceptable source selection criteria for procurement of munitions response services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 817) that would amend section 880(c)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Public Law 115-232) to include ``munitions response services'' for avoidance of lowest price technically acceptable source selection.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 823 - Use of fixed-price type contracts for certain shipbuilding programs

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 826) that would amend section 818 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364) to limit the number of ships that can be procured under fixed-price type options to no more than two if the contract includes detail design and construction for the lead ship.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 824 - Extension of temporary authority to modify certain contracts and options based on the effects of inflation

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 818) that would extend the temporary authority for modifying contracts for inflation until December 31, 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE C—PROVISIONS RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 831 - Modification to the term of appointment of the President of the Defense Acquisition University

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 917) that would amend section 1746(e) of title 10, United States Code, to remove the term limit for the President of the Defense Acquisition University.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would create a 3 year term for the President of the Defense Acquisition University serving on January 1, 2025.

Sec. 832 - Updated acquisition and sustainment training

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 831) that would require the Defense Acquisition University training curriculum for program executive officers, program managers, general officers, and flag officers to be periodically updated to include innovative best practices of the private sector and recently provided acquisition authorities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to develop field teams to train acquisition and sustainment personnel on rapid acquisition procedures in the course of executing defense acquisition programs.

Sec. 833 - Extension of demonstration project relating to certain acquisition personnel management policies and procedures

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6101) that would amend section 1762(g) of title 10, United States Code, to extend the demonstration project on acquisition personnel management to 2031.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

We direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the Acquisition Demonstration program and to provide a report, not later than March 1, 2026, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the results of that assessment. The assessment should include the following:

(1) A description of the workforce included in the project, including demographics, geographic distribution and job categorizations;

(2) An explanation of the flexibilities used in the project to appoint individuals to the acquisition workforce and whether those appointments are based on competitive procedures and recognize veteran's preferences;

(3) An explanation of the flexibilities used in the project to develop a performance appraisal system that recognizes performance and offers opportunities for improvement;

(4) The steps taken to ensure that such a system is fair and transparent for all employees in the project;

(5) How the project allows the organization to meet mission needs;

(6) An analysis of how the flexibilities described in subparagraphs (2) and (3) above are used, and what barriers have been encountered that inhibit their use;

(7) Whether there is a process for:

(a) ensuring ongoing performance feedback and dialogue among supervisors, managers, and employees throughout the performance appraisal period; and

(b) setting timetables for performance appraisals;

(8) The project's impact on career progression;

(9) The project's appropriateness or inappropriateness in light of the complexities of the workforce affected;

(10) The adequacy of the training, policy guidelines, and other preparations afforded in connection with using the project;

(11) Whether there is a process for ensuring employee involvement in the development and improvement of the project;

(12) Cost of conversion of employees out of the personnel system, including detailing the difference in employee pay, into a civilian personnel system pursuant to section 1762(h) of title 10, United States Code;

(13) Recommendations for improvements to address any findings within the assessment; and,

(14) The consistency of organizational business rules for the implementation of the demonstration project across the Department of Defense.

Sec. 834 - Performance incentives related to commercial product and commercial service determinations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 832) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish and maintain performance incentives for contract officers and program managers for requesting support from Defense Contract Management Agency, Defense Contract Audit Agency, and other Department of Defense experts in making commercial product or commercial service determinations prior to contract solicitation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would clarify that under the commercial item preference in section 3453 of title 10, United States Code, the Department of Defense shall establish performance incentives for appropriate personnel to adhere to the commercial item preference, where possible.

Sec. 835 - Modification to extramural acquisition innovation and research activities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 872) that would amend section 4142 of title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the position of the director for extramural acquisition innovation and research activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 836 - Prohibition on the transfer of certain data on employees of the Department of Defense to third parties

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 811) that would amend section 4662 of title 10, United States Code, to tighten the restrictions on a defense contractor's ability to sell or transfer certain data on Department of Defense employees to third parties by narrowing the Secretary of Defense's authority to waive the general restriction. Under this amendment, the Secretary could waive the general prohibition only on a case-by-case basis as necessary in the interest of national defense, while ensuring such waiver poses minimal privacy risk to the employee.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would clarify that section 4662 of title 10, United States Code, does not apply when the transfer of such data would otherwise be authorized under another provision of law. We note that the public availability of the report required by this provision is already governed by the requirements of section 122a of title 10, United States Code.

Sec. 837 - Modifications to contractor employee protections from reprisal for disclosure of certain information

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 873) that would amend section 4701 of title 10, United States Code, to enhance protections for whistleblowers by ensuring that they are fully informed of the final disposition of their reprisal allegation, and what actions, if any, have been ordered to make them whole.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 838 - Detail authority for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to provide technology transition support

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 219) that would authorize the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to provide qualified personnel to a military department to support transition of DARPA-developed technology to such military department, if requested by the Principal Technology Transition Advisor of that military department.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would limit such detail assignments to 1 year, with the option to extend for an additional 6 months.

Sec. 839 - Employment transparency regarding individuals who perform work in, for, or are subject to the laws or control of the People's Republic of China

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 853) that would amend section 855 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) to add a new disclosure requirement for reporting any software vulnerability to the U.S. affiliate at the same time.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 840 - Designation of program executive office for acquisition of open-source intelligence tools for Army

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 809) that would identify responsibilities for a Program Executive Office (PEO) for acquisition of open-source intelligence tools for the U.S. Army, should the Secretary of the Army designate an existing PEO to be responsible for open-source intelligence tools.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE D—PROVISIONS RELATING TO SUPPLY CHAINS AND DOMESTIC SOURCING

Sec. 841 - Enhancing requirements for information relating to supply chain risk

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 841) that would allow the Secretary of Defense to delegate supply chain risk management authority to defense agency directors, remove the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and Chief Information Officer joint recommendation requirement, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security risk assessment requirement, and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment concurrence requirement for supply chain risk management acquisition decisions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 842 - Domestic production of stainless steel flatware and dinnerware

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 821) that would add domestically produced stainless steel flatware to the requirement to buy certain articles from American sources.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 843).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 843 - Clarification of exception to Berry Amendment requirements for procurement of vessels in foreign waters

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1025) that would amend section 4862 of title 10, United States Code, to explicitly permit the acquisition of non-domestic items— not only by vessels in foreign waters, but also by other Department of Defense activities that are making purchases on behalf of vessels operating in foreign waters.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 844 - Technical edits to sourcing requirements for strategic materials and sensitive materials

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 879) that would amend sections 4863 and 4872(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, to clarify waiver authorities regarding the sourcing requirements for strategic and sensitive materials and better align these sections of code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 845 - Amendment to requirement to buy strategic materials critical to national security from American sources

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 842) that would amend the requirement to buy strategic materials critical to national security from American sources by inserting ``qualifying'' and defining a qualifying foreign government as the government of a country with which the United States has in effect a reciprocal defense procurement Memorandum of Understanding.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would clarify the term qualifying foreign government.

Sec. 846 - Modification to miscellaneous limitations on the procurement of goods other than United States goods

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 843) that would set requirements for domestic medium-speed marine diesel engine procurement.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 847 - Inclusion of recycled and reused minerals and metals in preference for sourcing of strategic and critical materials

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 845) that would direct the Department of Defense to source materials derived from recycled and reused minerals and metals within the National Technology and Industrial Base.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 844).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 848 - Domestic nonavailability determinations list

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 841) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to disclose publicly all domestic nonavailability determinations (DNADs) on an annual basis, and would establish a process for the periodic reevaluation of DNADs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to develop and maintain a list of all DNADs, provide the list to Congress annually, and develop a plan for sharing the list with industry.

Sec. 849 - Supply chain illumination incentives

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 847) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement incentives to encourage contractors of the Department of Defense to implement and use policies, procedures, and tools that allow assessment and monitoring of supply chains for vulnerabilities, security, and noncompliance risks.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 850 - Report and updated guidance on continued risk management for pharmaceutical supply chains of Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 844) that would amend section 3241 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Department of Defense to include temperature monitoring as a factor in its pharmaceutical supply chain.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 848) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to provide a report on existing information streams related to key starting materials for pharmaceuticals that the Department of Defense relies on—including any limitations on the ability of the Secretary of Defense to obtain, analyze or monitor such pharmaceutical supply chains.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment to include data on temperature monitoring across the pharmaceutical supply chain as an element of the required report.

SUBTITLE E—PROHIBITIONS AND LIMITATIONS ON PROCUREMENT

Sec. 851 - Prohibition on contracting with covered entities that contract with lobbyists for Chinese military companies

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 802 and sec. 881) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from contracting with companies that retain lobbying firms that also lobby for Chinese military companies as defined by the Department of Defense's 1260H list, and require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report containing the results of a study on the national security risks posed by consulting firms who simultaneously contract with the Federal Government and the Chinese government or its proxies or affiliates.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision which would prohibit the Department of Defense from contracting with companies that retain lobbying firms that also knowingly lobby for Chinese military companies as defined by the Department of Defense's 1260H list.

We direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than one year after the enactment of this Act, on the national security risks posed by consulting firms who simultaneously contract with the Department of Defense and the Chinese government or its proxies or affiliates. This report shall:

(1) Assess the extent to which the Department of Defense collects information on contracts performed on behalf of the Chinese government or its proxies or affiliates by

consulting firms that hold or have held contracts with the Department of Defense, and whether such information includes specific projects and deliverables of such contracts;

(2) Evaluate the extent to which the Department of Defense has assessed the risks posed by American consulting firms' work for the Chinese government and its proxies or affiliates, including an assessment of risk of deliberate or inadvertent sharing of confidential or proprietary information that may be used for Chinese economic or military advantage;

(3) Identify relevant contract clauses, procedures, and information used by the Department of Defense to identify, evaluate, and resolve organizational conflicts of interest when awarding consulting contracts;

(4) Identify challenges faced by the Department of Defense to identify, evaluate, and resolve organizational conflicts of interest, including determining whether the offeror or potential contractor also performs work for China; and

(5) Identify steps the Department of Defense takes to monitor contractor compliance with any contract clauses, terms or conditions intended to resolve identified conflicts of interest.

Sec. 852 - Notification of changes to certain transportation contracts

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 806) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from waiving safety and security requirements for truck drivers and motor carriers that transport munitions for the Department.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees prior to implementing any change in safety and security requirements for munitions transportation contracts.

Sec. 853 - Prohibition on procurement of covered semiconductor products and services from companies providing covered semiconductor products and services to Huawei

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 807) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from entering into or renewing a contract for the procurement of any covered semiconductor products and services for the Department of Defense with any entity that provides covered semiconductor products and services to Huawei.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 854 - Prohibition on contracts for online tutoring services

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 809C and sec. 1047) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from entering into a contract for online tutoring services which could result in personal data of citizens of the United States being transferred to the control of the People's Republic of China.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 886).

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 855 - Limitation on availability of funds for covered contractors engaged in an anti-Israel boycott

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 645) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from knowingly permitting the sale of goods from any entities that has engaged or engages in a boycott of Israel.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from knowingly permitting the sale of goods from any entities that has engaged or engages in a boycott of Israel and has a total volume of sales exceeding \$10 million.

Sec. 856 - Procurement of cleaning products

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 804) that would require the Department of Defense to procure cleaning products, as identified by the Safer Choice program, to the maximum extent practicable.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 857 - Plan for production of covered munitions for procurement by the Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 881) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program for the licensed production by commercial companies of munitions, munitions test platforms, and mission systems for munitions.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 858 - Procurement of covered hearing protection devices

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 854) that would allow the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the head of the Hearing Center of Excellence, to enter into one or more contracts to procure covered hearing protection devices for all members of the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

SUBTITLE F—INDUSTRIAL BASE MATTERS

Sec. 861 - Codification and modification of pilot program to accelerate the procurement and fielding of innovative technologies

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 141) that would amend section 834 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) to permit the issuance of not more than two solicitations for proposals with no restrictions on type of business.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 862 - Program for distribution support and services for contractors

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 853) that would authorize a program that allows the Secretary of Defense to provide storage and distribution services for contractors of the Department of Defense for 15 years.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 876).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 863 - Extension of the pilot program for streamlining awards for innovative technology projects

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 825) that would amend section 873 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) to extend the pilot program for streamlining awards to small businesses and nontraditional defense contractors for innovative technology projects to 2029.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 864 - Use of capability-based analysis of price of goods or services offered by nontraditional defense contractors

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 824) that would create a pilot program to allow Department of Defense contracting officers to consider a wider range of analyses in their price reasonableness determinations for products and services offered by small businesses and nontraditional defense contractors.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 865 - Qualification of industrial capabilities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 842) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to establish a pilot program to expedite the qualification of key technologies critical to weapons programs, such as energetics and solid rocket motors and direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to provide a briefing on the implementation of this pilot program and annual reports detailing the streamlined qualification process and programs that are utilizing this process.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments and the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency, to establish a

process to rapidly qualify industrial capabilities for combat deployment.

Sec. 866 - Solid rocket motor industrial base

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 846) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, acting through the Director of the Joint Production Accelerator Cell and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy, to develop a roadmap for the desired state of the solid rocket motor industrial base to support existing and planned munitions programs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, acting through the Director of the Joint Production Accelerator Cell and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy, to submit to the congressional defense committees a strategy for ensuring the United States defense industrial base can meet solid rocket motor (SRM) requirements for current and future Service programs of record. It would also require the Secretary of Defense to contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct a review of the SRM industrial base.

Sec. 867 - Promulgate guidance relating to certain Department of Defense contracts

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 873) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue guidance on the governance and oversight of the contracts of the Department of Defense that support or enable sensitive activities not later than January 31, 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE G—SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

Sec. 871 - Pilot program for the participation of military research and educational institutions in the STTR program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 862) that would amend the definition of research institution in section 9(e)(8) of the Small Business Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 863).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 872 - Department of Defense pilot program for preliminary calculation estimates for certain programs

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 864) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program for calculating required budget expenditures for certain programs of the Department of Defense that only receive their funding allocations after a final appropriations bill is enacted.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 873 - Boots to Business Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 869) that would establish the "Boots to Business Program" to provide entrepreneurship training to covered individuals.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 874 - Establishment of pilot program for access to shared classified commercial infrastructure

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 865) that would require the Secretary of Defense to expand existing pilot programs to not fewer than six locations at which small business concerns, contractors of the Department of Defense, and institutions of higher education may access shared commercial classified infrastructure.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1547).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 875 - Accessibility and clarity in covered notices for small business concerns

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 864) that would require the Department of Defense write contract solicitations in plain language.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 876 - Small Business Bill of Rights

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 862) that would require the Secretary of Defense, through the Small Business Integration Working Group, to develop and adopt a Small Business Bill of Rights for the Department of Defense to ensure small business customer service issues and conflicts are resolved expeditiously.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

SUBTITLE H—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 881 - Clarification of waiver authority for organizational and consultant conflicts of interest

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 871) that would amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to clarify that a waiver granted for an organizational conflict of interest must include written justification and cannot be delegated below the level of the deputy agency head.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the provision.

Sec. 882 - Reverse engineering or re-engineering for production of items

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 822) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments and the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency, to carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of producing parts through reverse engineering or re-engineering.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 883 - Procurement of Department of Defense batteries

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 855) that would require the Department of Defense to procure lithium-ion batteries produced in the United States or in allied nations beginning in 2026.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 888).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Department of Defense to coordinate a Department-wide approach to establish a battery strategy to further leverage the advancements of domestic and allied commercial industry.

Sec. 884 - Advisory panel on the requirements process of the Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 806) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish an advisory panel to provide recommendations on the effectiveness of the Department of Defense requirements process and develop options for reform.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 885 - Proposal for payment of costs for certain Government Accountability Office bid protests

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 872) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to determine the effectiveness of requiring a contractor to reimburse the Department of Defense for costs incurred in processing covered protests.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would increase the threshold for allowable Department of Defense (DOD) protests from \$25 million to \$35 million and require the Government Accountability Office and DOD to develop enhanced plea standards for DOD contracts, a standard cost to the government of a protest based on contract size, and benchmark foregone profit rates of the awarded contractor.

Sec. 886 - Briefings, certification, and limitation on availability of funds related to fuel services financial management contracts

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 805) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from entering into a contract with a fuel service provider to oversee the financial management of the Department of Defense's fuel network.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 887 - Implementation of Comptroller General recommendations relating to certain spare parts for F-35 aircraft

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 878) that would require the Secretary of Defense to take such actions as may be necessary to implement the recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States contained in the report entitled, ``F-35 Program: DOD Needs Better Accountability for Global Spare Parts and Reporting of Losses Worth Millions''. The provision would require a report from the Secretary on the progress of the implementation no later than one year after enactment of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, amended to require that the implementation report from the Secretary be submitted no later than December 31, 2025.

Sec. 888 - Tracking awards made through other transaction authority

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 861) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to establish a pilot program that would enable the Department of Defense to track the number and funding amounts of awards to small businesses and non-traditional defense contractors through the use of other transaction authorities, including those carried out through consortia.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would clarify that the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall track the number and funding amounts of awards to small businesses and non-traditional defense contractors through the use of other transaction authorities going forwards, instead of a pilot program.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Updated guidance on planning for global demand

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 808) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to ensure that the program guidance for major defense acquisition programs are revised to integrate planning for global demand under foreign military sales, direct commercial sales, and other relevant transfer authorities to capture and plan for international demand

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that section 4211 of title 10, United States Code, requires program acquisition strategies to account for international involvement, including foreign military sales and cooperative opportunities.

Budget recommendations for multiyear procurement of priority items

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 809A) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Comptroller General of the United States to include an annex with recommendations on multi-year procurement of priority items along with the budget materials submitted to Congress in support of the annual budget request of the President.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibition on certain Chinese e-commerce purchases

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 809B) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from obligating or expending funds to acquire any good from Temu or Shein or through a service operated by either such entity.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Review panel on fair and reasonable pricing and contract oversight

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 809D) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a review panel on fair and reasonable pricing and contract oversight of sole-source contracts for munitions and weapons systems contracts, including related contracts for services and spare parts.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We continue to have concerns that the Department is not adequately able to reach fair and reasonable pricing with sole source suppliers. We recognize the Department provided comprehensive findings on cost or pricing data oversight, reviews, audits, and inspections conducted by the Inspector General consistent with the direction from the Joint Explanatory Statement for House-passed section 895 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024. We also recognize the study provided by the Director of Defense Pricing, Contracting and Acquisition Policy on the Truth in Negotiations Act as part of the Defense Contract Finance Study. While the findings provide important insights, we believe there is room for further improvement to the Department's contract negotiation practices. In particular, we believe that cost or pricing data challenges associated with sole source suppliers often result from inadequate data rights analysis, ordering, inspection, and enforcement. Moreover, barriers to competition are created by difficult to navigate qualification and test procedures and government-unique flow-down clauses. Therefore, we direct the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees, not later than March 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of creating a panel composed of both government officials and industry representatives that would comprehensively evaluate the challenges to, and potential solutions for, ensuring fair and reasonable prices are received by the Department of Defense.

Elimination of late cost and pricing data submission defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 813) that would require contractors to provide all cost and pricing data relevant to an award prior to contract agreement.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Special operations forces procurement authority

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 816) that would provide U.S. Special Operations Forces with special procurement authority, allowing certain procurements to be treated as being conducted outside the United States and adjusting monetary thresholds for such procurements.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, not later than March 1, 2025, to jointly provide the congressional defense committees a briefing on any recommended changes to procurement authorities necessary to support activities by special operations forces, to include those that are conducted outside of contingency operations declared by the Secretary of Defense.

Limitation on availability of funds for chiller class projects of the Department of the Air Force

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 819) that would prohibit noncompetitive procurement of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning chillers at installations of the Air Force until the Secretary of Defense submits a certification to congressional defense committees.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Air Force, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the business case for use of a non-competitive justification and approval process for chiller class projects within the Department of the Air Force. The briefing should include, at a minimum, a discussion of how the Air Force is measuring the impacts of standardization, to include life-cycle costs, cost-avoidance if applicable, and sustainment timelines at the installations at which this process has been used.

Regulations applicable to combat footwear of members of all branches of the armed forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 820) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue regulations prohibiting any member of the Armed Forces from wearing optional combat boots as part of a required uniform unless the optional

combat boots are entirely manufactured in the United States and are manufactured from materials only sourced from the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Senate report accompanying S.4638 (S. Rept. 118-188) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 included a requirement for the Secretaries of the military departments to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees, not later than March 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of changing regulations to ensure that boots worn by servicemembers are entirely manufactured in the United States.

Pilot program for program management offices to compete in rehabilitating at-risk programs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 834) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to establish a pilot program to test the feasibility and reliability of using two program management offices to compete in managing programs for rapid fielding.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a process for acquisition programs to have competing Department of Defense program managers to promote competition.

Report relating to certain domestic nonavailability determinations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 846) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the procurement of fire-resistant fiber blend fabric and a report on the process for making, reviewing, and terminating or modifying domestic nonavailability determinations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the Senate report accompanying the Senate committee-reported bill directs the Secretaries of the military departments to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives on "Domestic Nonavailability Determinations." Furthermore, we direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to include the following additional components in that briefing not later than April 1, 2025: (1) Information on the availability of domestic sources for fire-resistant fiber blend fabric for the production of uniforms; (2) A description of any contract the Secretary or a Secretary of a military department has entered into for the procurement of fire-resistant fiber blend fabric from a domestic source in the three-year period preceding the date of the briefing, including any contracts with specifications for a specific blend; (3) A comparison of fire-resistant fiber blends with and without the inclusion of fire-resistant rayon; (4) The process of making a domestic nonavailability determination (DNAD) pursuant to section 4862(c) of title 10, United States Code, including the average length of time to make such determination and if the Department factors in a single domestic source as a justification to provide a DNAD; (5) The process of reviewing such determinations, including factors that trigger the initiation of a review, and the timelines associated with each such review; and (6) The process by which Secretary determines whether to terminate or modify such determination.

Study on use of off-the-shelf information technology products from foreign adversary countries

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 848) that would require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a study on the use by the Department of Defense of off-the-shelf information technology products that were manufactured, produced, or assembled by a covered company and provide a report on the findings of the study.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Entrepreneurial Innovation Project designations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 851) that would amend chapter 303 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Armed Forces to identify promising research programs of the Small Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business

Technology Transfer Program for inclusion in the future budgets and plans of the Department of Defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Modification to procurement requirements relating to rare earth elements and strategic and critical materials

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 852) that would amend section 857 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) to include a supply chain disclosure requirement for large-capacity batteries.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We remain concerned about the Department of Defense and the defense industrial base's continued reliance on non-allied manufacturers for their battery requirements. While there have been ongoing efforts to create alternative sources, to include Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment and Defense Production Act of 1950 (Public Law 81-774) investments, the Department has been hamstrung by bureaucratic processes and inconsistent funding. The recent imposition of Chinese sanctions on United States defense companies may further limit access to necessary materials. We urge the Department to continue to prioritize investment and standardization in battery supply chains.

Impact assessment of Manufacturing Innovation Institutes on the defense industrial base

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 856) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit an assessment of the impact of continued investment in Department of Defense sponsored manufacturing innovation institutes on the defense industrial base in the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on competition and equipment repair

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 857) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on competition and equipment repair.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Department of Defense contracting goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 861) that would set Department of Defense goals for contracting to veteran owned small businesses.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Training on increasing Federal contract awards to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 863) that would require the Department of Defense to engage the Small Business Administration to conduct training for procurement personnel on how to increase awards made to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Memorandum of understanding relating to Department of Defense critical technology area opportunities for small business concerns

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 866) that would require the Secretary of Defense and Administrator of the Small Business Administration to increase information sharing on contract opportunities available for small business relating to Department of Defense critical technology areas.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

COLLABORATE Memorandum of Understanding Report

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 867) that would require the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Entrepreneurial Development of the Small Business Administration and the Director of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense to submit a report on the memorandum of understanding

between the Small Business Administration and the Department of Defense entered into on December 2, 2022.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Modification to initiatives to support small businesses in the national technology and industrial base

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 868) that would modify section 861 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) by requiring the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy to provide a report on the activities undertaken by the National Technology and Industrial Base and require a report on the overall efficacy of the small business strategy.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on bundled contracts of the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 869A) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the effects of awarding bundled contracts on the Department of Defense and small business concerns and the potential effects of reducing the number of bundled contracts awarded.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than April 1, 2025, on the effects of awarding bundled contracts (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) on the Defense Logistics Agency and small businesses and the potential effects of reducing the number of bundled contracts awarded.

Framework for the efficient and secure procurement of food service products

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 874) that would require a framework from the Department of Defense to improve the security of supply chains for food service products.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of requiring all disposable food service products procured for use by the Department of Defense to be compostable and produced domestically. The briefing should include a potential timeline required to implement this requirement, any existing laws and regulations establishing domestic acquisition preferences or requirements that may be affected by the requirement, a cost analysis of implementing the requirement, and any other information the Secretary deems relevant.

Plan for identifying and replacing syringes of concern

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 875) that would require the Department of Defense, in coordination with the Defense Logistics Agency and Defense Health Agency, to develop and implement a plan to review the Department's inventory and supply chain for medical syringes that have been subject to a Food and Drug Administration Import Alert or meet the conditions of a Food and Drug Administration Safety Communication.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on domestic sites for rare earth element mining

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 876) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense to provide a report containing a list of domestic sites for rare earth element mining.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than March 1, 2026, in consultation with the Secretary of Interior, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the extent to which the two departments confer with each other on expertise related to domestic sites for rare earth mining. The briefing shall include, but not be limited to, the following focus areas regarding rare earth elements: (1) Existing domestic sites that have received Federal investment and their status of development; (2) Areas that may have a high potential for containing deposits and where new or additional mining

operations could be established or are suitable; and (3) Existing limitations for expanding and funding domestic sites for rare earth element mining.

Prohibition on entering into contracts with a person engaged in a boycott of the State of Israel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 877) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from entering into a contract with a person if such person is engaged in an activity that is politically motivated and is intended to penalize or otherwise limit significant commercial relations specifically with Israel or persons doing business in Israel or in Israeli-controlled territories.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Assessment of compliance with Global Household Goods Contract requirements

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 880) that would require the Commander, United States Transportation Command to conduct an assessment of the performance of contractors under the Global Household Goods Contract (GHC) in meeting the applicable requirements for capacity and quality in such contract during the period beginning on May 1, 2025, and ending on August 31, 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Commander, United States Transportation Command to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than November 1, 2025, assessing the performance of the Global Household Goods Contract in meeting the following:

(1) Requirements for capacity and quality in such contract during the period beginning on May 15, 2025 and ending on September 30, 2025;

(2) Servicemember feedback since the beginning of GHC implementation;

(3) An updated progression schedule for continued phase-in of domestic and international household goods shipments at future locations; and

(4) An update on the duration, retention, and sunset of existing Tender of Service program services.

Prohibition on funding for covered entities and nonprofit organizations or other entities that engage in covered behavior

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 882) that would prohibit the use of funds for covered entities and nonprofit organizations that engage in covered behavior.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibitions relating to covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 883) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense to enter into, extend or renew a contract or other agreement for, any equipment, system, or service that uses covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of such equipment, system, or service; or critical technology as part of such equipment, system, or service.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on contract goal for the AbilityOne program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 884) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the contract goal for the AbilityOne program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the value of the AbilityOne program as one of the largest sources of employment in the United States for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. In section 898 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328), we directed the Secretary of Defense to establish the "Panel on Department of Defense and AbilityOne Contracting Oversight, Accountability and Integrity" of senior level representatives from Department of Defense agencies, the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, and other Federal agencies and organizations. We note that the existing 0.5 percent AbilityOne contracting goal for the Department of Defense has remained unchanged since the recommendations of this panel. We recognize that the AbilityOne Commission and the Secretary of Defense are reviewing proposals to increase the threshold.

Report on small purchases of critical minerals and magnets

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 885) that would require the Director of the Defense Contract Management Agency to provide a report detailing the dollar amount of covered materials manufactured in the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation and acquired by the Department of Defense through contracts valued at or below the simplified acquisition threshold during the period beginning on January 1, 2020.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, on the amount of strategic materials that have been manufactured in China and Russia and acquired by the Department of Defense since January 1, 2020. For the purposes of the report, strategic materials include: samarium-cobalt magnets, neodymium-iron-boron magnets, tungsten metal powder, tungsten heavy alloy, tantalum metals and alloys, aluminum-nickel-cobalt magnets, and any metals listed in section 4863(1) of title 10, United States Code. The report shall include recommendations for the Department of Defense to improve its ability to track the manufacturing of such strategic materials.

Limitation on availability of funds for installation of photovoltaic modules

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 886) that would prohibit the use of funds for the Department of Defense from being used for a contract for the installation of photovoltaic modules at any facility or real property of the Department of Defense unless the contract contains a provision prohibiting the procurement of such photovoltaic modules from a foreign entity of concern.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the existing requirements for the purchase of domestically sourced items via sections 4862, 4863, and 4864 of title 10, United States Code.

Study and report on shipping containers and specialty shipping containers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 887) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation, to provide a report that contains the results of a study on shipping containers and specialty shipping containers.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Modification to submission of certified cost or pricing data

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 807) that would amend section 3705 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Department of Defense to provide a notification if contractors have multiple instances of denying the Department cost or pricing data when requested in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System used by contracting officers.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Ensuring competition in artificial intelligence procurement

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 810) that would specify certain policies related to the use and protection of training data in artificial intelligence procurements to protect government furnished training data.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that elements of this provision are addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Modifications to commercial product and commercial service determinations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 827) that would amend sections 3456 and 3703 of title 10, United States Code, to: (1) Require Department of Defense (DOD) contracting officers to submit a written memorandum to a contractor summarizing the determination of the commerciality of a product or service within 30 days of the determination being made, rather than 30 days after contract award; (2) Extend a determination of commerciality to items procured under subcontracts, provided that the DOD contracting officer approves the determination; and (3) Extend a determination of commerciality to products that may have changed a part number, but provide substantially the same functionality.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Requirement for contractors to provide reasonable access to repair materials

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 828) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from entering into a contract for the procurement of a good or service unless the contractor agrees to provide fair and reasonable access to all repair materials, including parts, tools, and information.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Process for consulting on national security import reviews

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 845) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a process for investigating and reporting on the national security implications of imports when asked to consult by another Federal agency and require the Secretary to submit an annual report regarding the national security risks posed by the reviewed imports.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-794) requires the Department of Commerce to seek interagency input when conducting import reviews. We note that under this process, the Department of Defense should provide input on any national security concerns regarding industries of importance to the Department of Defense and the defense industrial base.

Pharmaceutical supplier compliance with data submission requirements

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 847) that would direct the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency to require, to the extent feasible, every contractor supplying pharmaceuticals to the Department of Defense to submit the amount of each listed drug manufactured, prepared, propagated, compounded, or processed for commercial distribution to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as required by section 510(j)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Public Law 117-9), as added by section 3112(e) of

the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We expect pharmaceutical providers to ensure their compliance with this requirement from the FDA, and encourage the Department of Defense to ensure their contractors' compliance with this reporting.

Report on impact of mergers and acquisitions on the defense industrial base

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 849) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy to submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the policies and procedures of the Department of Defense relating to mergers and acquisitions and how these impact the defense industrial base.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that a similar reporting requirement was included in the House Report 118-529.

Transparency in acquisition waivers issued by the Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 851) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy to publish all non-sensitive information regarding acquisition waivers granted by the Department of Defense on a publicly accessible website and provide an annual briefing on all waivers granted by the Department of Defense in the previous calendar year.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We remain concerned that there is no visibility into national security waivers, and therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives, no later than January 1, 2026, on all national security waivers granted by the Department of Defense in the previous calendar year. The briefing may be submitted in a classified form. We expect the Under Secretary of Defense of Acquisition and Sustainment to promulgate necessary guidance to the military services regarding proper reporting of national security waivers for the purposes of this briefing requirement.

Report on capacity to increase domestic industrial production and procurement of strategic and critical materials

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 852) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report that assesses the capacity to increase domestic industrial production and procurement of strategic and critical materials during peacetime and in the event of a national emergency.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than July 1, 2025, on the Department's capacity to increase domestic industrial production and procurement of strategic and critical materials. The briefing shall include but not be limited to: (1) Recommendations regarding increasing the role of the Secretary of Defense in the production and procurement of strategic and critical materials from domestic sources; and (2) Ongoing or previous efforts by the Department of Defense to integrate its responsibilities with the responsibilities of other Federal Agencies related to increasing domestic industrial production and procurement of strategic and critical materials during peacetime and in the event of a national emergency.

Department of Defense manufacturing authorities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 854) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into contracts for the domestic manufacture of certain prescription drugs if Department of Defense requirements for such drugs cannot be met by other means.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Reports on Joint Warfighter Cloud Capability contracts

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 884) that would require the Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on a biannual basis thereafter until September 30, 2030 to produce a report on the contracts relating to the Joint Warfighter Cloud Capability entered into by the Department of Defense 2022 for commercial cloud services for the Department.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Phase-out of computer and printer acquisitions involving entities owned or controlled by China

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 885) that would require the Secretary of Defense to phase-out the procurement of computers and printers that are manufactured by an entity that is owned by the government of the People's Republic of China or under the influence of the government of the People's Republic of China.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 Conference Report (H. Rept. 118-301) addressed the Department of Defense's risk-based approach to the procurement of information technology. We are also aware that the cyber threat landscape is constantly changing, with new threats emerging on a regular basis. We believe that the Department should account for new cyber threats in its procurement of information technology and take appropriate steps to ensure that it fully mitigates the cybersecurity risks of acquiring computers and printers from entities owned or controlled by entities in the People's Republic of China.

Requirement to procure domestically produced generic drugs

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 887) that would prohibit the purchase of certain generic drugs needed by the Department of Defense from non-domestic or non-Trade Agreement Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-39) compliant sources after October 1, 2025, unless a determination is made that such drugs are not otherwise available in satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity to meet military needs, or when needed at market prices.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We remain deeply concerned regarding the supply chains for pharmaceutical products that are necessary for warfighter readiness. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) included section 860 that focused on determining supply chain vulnerabilities, and the Department of Defense (DOD) has made improvements in identification of problematic sources. We are aware that the Department is limited by the data that industry provides to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration regarding sources of active pharmaceutical ingredients and other data. While the DOD has a vested interest

in ensuring the security of their supply chains, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for the integrity of the pharmaceutical industrial base. We are aware that HHS has the authority to use the Defense Production Act for investment in the domestic pharmaceutical industrial base. Improving the supply chains for pharmaceuticals should be a government-wide effort.

Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than May 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on:

(1) Challenges that DOD experiences working with the interagency on receiving proper data on pharmaceutical supply chains, to include potential solutions;

(2) Ongoing discussions or efforts, if any, on utilizing the Defense Production Act authority under DOD or HHS for warfighter necessary pharmaceutical products;

(3) The feasibility and advisability of establishing an acquisition preference to encourage domestic or allied sourcing of pharmaceutical products, to include what the framework could look like; and

(4) Any other relevant items that the Secretary of Defense deems appropriate.

Prohibition on procurement and commissary sales of seafood originating or processed in China

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 889) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from entering into a contract for the procurement of seafood that originates or is processed in the People's Republic of China for use in military dining facilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that there is a reporting requirement elsewhere in the Act that covers this topic.

Extension of post-government restrictions on senior Department of Defense officials seeking employment with defense contractors

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 890) that would amend section 847(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) to increase the length of time from two to four years that certain former employees must obtain a written opinion on post-Government employment restrictions before accepting employment with a Department of Defense contractor.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that the the Department of Defense Inspector General has reviewed the Departments compliance with section 847 four times since 2010 and found that the Department's processes, timeliness, and substance of opinions fully comply with the requirements of this statute.

Amendments to contracting authority for certain small business concerns

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5861) that would amend the contracting authority for certain small business concerns.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include Senate provision.

Repeal of bonafide office rule for 8(a) contracts with the Department of Defense

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5864) that would repeal the bonafide office rule for 8(a) contracts with the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Report on ability of Department of Defense to identify prohibited seafood imports in supply chain for food procurement

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5871) that would require the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to provide a report assessing whether the Department has policies and procedures in place to verify that the food the Department procures does not include seafood originating in the People's Republic of China.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing whether the Department has policies and procedures in place to verify that the food the Department procures does not include seafood originating in the People's Republic of China the importation of which is prohibited under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (Public Law 71-361).

TITLE IX—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

SUBTITLE A—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND RELATED MATTERS

Sec. 901 - Requirement to notify Congress when Deputy Secretary of Defense is performing functions and duties of Secretary of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 901) that would amend 132(b) of title 10, United States Code, to require the Deputy Secretary of Defense to notify specified congressional committees, not later than 24 hours before certain planned transfers of functions and duties or 24 hours after any unplanned transfer of such functions and duties, when the Secretary dies, resigns, or is otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 902 - Establishment of Department of Defense performance improvement officer

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 909) that would reestablish the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense and elevate the Director of Administration and Management to such position.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would codify the position of the Performance Improvement Officer to support the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for management-related activities within the Department of Defense, including issuing guidance chartering that position and designating that position as a co-chair for the Defense Business Council under section 2222 of title 10, United States Code.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than September 1, 2025, containing a study identifying the appropriate staffing requirements in support of the role of the Performance Improvement Officer in overseeing the Defense Management Institute under section 133 of title 10, United States Code.

Sec. 903 - Enhanced coordination on international cooperation activities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 904) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy to include the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International and Industry Engagement in the planning for, or attendance at, any meetings with foreign partners or allies related to foreign military sales or certain other international armament cooperation activities; and require a study by a nonprofit organization on the sufficiency of organization, resourcing, manning and training within the Department of Defense to support increased demand for security cooperation activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate committee-reported provision with an amendment that would modify the responsibilities of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment in section 133b of title 10, United States Code to specify the responsibilities of that office for international armaments cooperation activities, as well as establish not less than two cross functional teams to help improve coordination across elements within the Department of Defense.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, not later than May 15, 2025, on the interim plans for establishment and execution of the cross-functional teams for international cooperation as required by subsection (b) of the provision, including the proposed geographic and functional areas and proposed composition.

Sec. 904 - Increase in authorized number of Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 902) that would amend section 138(e) of title 10, United States Code, to increase the authorized number of Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense from 60 to 62.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

We recommend that the Department of Defense use these two positions to further strengthen the capabilities of the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy (ASD(IBP)). The office of the ASD(IBP) has assumed increased

responsibility, and the demands placed on the office warrant commensurate growth in leadership positions. For example, we note the interagency's increased reliance on the office of the ASD(IBP) to provide economic analysis and merger and acquisition reviews has not been met with a comparable increase in manning resources for government positions to maintain adequate control over increasing contractor positions.

Sec. 905 - Modifications to the Office of Strategic Capital

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 913) that would make permanent the authority for the Office of Strategic Capital to provide capital assistance, as well as make technical changes that eliminate the non-federal funding requirement and the list of specific technologies to focus investment.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate committee-reported provision with an amendment that would adjust the sunset deadline only for the capital assistance authorities, as well as make some minor technical and confirming edits.

Sec. 906 - Limitation on availability of funds until Department of Defense complies with certain legal requirements

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 924) that would limit funds authorized to be obligated or expended by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs until the Deputy Secretary of Defense certifies that the Department of Defense has implemented Section 805 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) and Section 1046 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate committee-reported provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 907 - Matters relating to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 903) that would require the Secretary of Defense to institutionalize the "service secretary-like" role of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict by updating Department of Defense policies

and processes, and developing a long-term staffing plan for the Secretariat for Special Operations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 908 - Inclusion in defense planning guidance of guidance on size, structure, and posture of special operations forces

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 906) that would require the Secretary of Defense to include guidance with respect to the size, structure, posture, and other force development planning priorities specific to special operations forces in the annual Defense Planning Guidance issued by the Secretary.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 909 - Review of roles and responsibilities of the Chief Talent Management Officer and the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 901) that would create the Chief Talent Management Officer who will serve as the principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense on matters relating to total force talent management within the Department of Defense, concerning both military and civilian personnel.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a qualified organization to review the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Talent Management Officer and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and to report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the results of this review by no later than January 1, 2026.

Sec. 910 - Plan for adequate staffing of Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy and Joint Production Accelerator Cell

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 908) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for adequate

staffing for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy and the Joint Production Accelerator Cell.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

SUBTITLE B—OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Sec. 921 - Department of Defense Senior Intelligence Oversight Official

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 930) that would require the Secretary of Defense, or a designee of the Secretary determined by regulations prescribed by the Secretary, to designate a civilian employee of the Department of Defense in the Senior Executive Service to serve as the Senior Intelligence Oversight Official.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 922 - Codification of the Joint Federated Assurance Center

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 912) that would amend subchapter III of chapter 303 of title 10, United States Code, to make permanent the authority for the Joint Federated Assurance Center originally established in section 937 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 923 - Codification of additional staff corps of the Navy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 926) that would amend section 8090 of title 10, United States Code, by adding the Supply Corps, Civil Engineer Corps, Nurse Corps, and the Medical Service Corps to the statutory staff corps of the Navy.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 924 - Establishment of Office of Expanded Competition

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 911) that would amend chapter 903 of title 10, United States Code, to establish an Office of Expanded Competition within the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 925 - Counter unmanned aerial systems task force

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 902) that would require the Secretary of Defense to designate an executive agent responsible for providing oversight of the efforts of the Department of Defense to counter small, unmanned aircraft and systems and associated training and technology programs.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 916).

The agreement includes the Senate provision, amended to require the Secretary to submit a training report.

Sec. 926 - Affiliate relationships between Army Special Operations forces and combat-enabling units of general purpose forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1044) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from reducing U.S. Special Operations Forces end strength for 2 years beginning January 1, 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 919).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of the Army and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict to jointly submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing the feasibility and advisability of establishing formal affiliate relationships between units of the Army special operations forces and combat-enabling units of the Army general purpose forces for the purpose of enhancing military readiness and effectiveness. The provision would also prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds in fiscal year 2025 to complete force structure reductions to Army special operations forces announced by the Army on February 27, 2024, as part of the Total Army Analysis process until the required report is provided to the congressional defense committees.

Sec. 927 - Force sizing methodology

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 905) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a methodology for analyzing U.S. military force sizing necessary to conduct activities of the Department of Defense in support of strategic competition.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Elimination of the Chief Diversity Officer of the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 903) that would repeal section 147 of title 10, United States Code, with the result of disestablishing the Chief Diversity Officer of the Department of Defense, and would prohibit the establishment of like offices in the future.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Designation of senior officials responsible for contested logistics posture management

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 921) that would designate the Undersecretary for Acquisition and Sustainment as the senior defense official responsible for managing contested logistics posture management and mandate the military departments designate a senior civilian official to manage the same responsibilities for their respective services.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Eligibility of Chief of the National Guard Bureau for appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 922) that would amend section 152(b) of title 10, United States Code, to make the Chief of the National Guard Bureau eligible for appointment as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Army Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 925) that would direct the Secretary of the Army to establish and operate an Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence within the Army Training and Doctrine Command.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Membership of Commandant of the Coast Guard on the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 929) that would amend section 151 of title 10, United States Code, to include the Commandant of the Coast Guard as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize the importance of close coordination among the senior leadership of the Armed Forces. We understand that many of the issues addressed by the JCS pertain to significant Department of Defense equities that do not involve the Coast Guard. However, on those issues with Coast Guard equities, the Commandant or the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard is present and participates in those discussions and decisions.

Inclusion of Mexico in the area of responsibility of the United States Southern Command

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 928) that would require the Secretary of Defense to transfer Mexico to U.S. Southern Command's area of responsibility.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Feasibility report on establishment of a Defense Industrial Revitalization Board

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 927) that would require a report on the feasibility and advisability of establishing an advisory board within the Department to regularly assess the state of the Department's defense

industrial base efforts and to help coordinate efforts to address industrial base challenges.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 850).

The agreement does not include either provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a Defense Industrial Revitalization Board which would be responsible for ensuring the defense industrial base is prepared to meet Department of Defense wartime production. The purpose of this board would be to:

- (1) Assess the health of the defense industrial base;
- (2) Identify critical shortages and impediments to production of critical munitions and other war materials;
- (3) Identify required production rates for critical munitions;
- (4) Oversee and deconflict Department and service efforts to improve defense industrial capacity;
- (5) Develop a comprehensive plan that details immediate steps that can be taken to increase the capacity of the defense industrial base;
- (6) Utilize existing supply chain mapping efforts to identify single points of failure that impact munitions and critical weapons platforms and identify funding mechanisms to create second sources or other resilience measures, with a focus on those munitions necessary for a potential war in the Pacific; and
- (7) Utilize existing supply chain mapping efforts to identify reliance on foreign adversaries within critical munitions supply chains and recommend amelioration efforts.

Such a board should be composed of the following, but not limited to:

- (1) Relevant Department of Defense acquisition, research and engineering, and comptroller personnel;
- (2) Service acquisition executives and program managers;
- (3) Defense industry representatives;
- (4) Relevant think tank experts;
- (5) Representatives from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment;
- (6) Representatives from the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering; and
- (7) Representatives from the Defense Innovation Unit.

Establishment of the Drone Corps as a basic branch of the Army

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 924) that would establish a Drone Corps as a basic branch of the Army.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Designation of Deputy Under Secretary of the Army as principal official responsible for explosive ordnance disposal

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 923) that would designate the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army as the Principal Official in the Army Secretariat accountable for the Army's explosive ordnance disposal enterprise.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We acknowledge the ongoing interest in the structure and authorities related to the explosive ordnance disposal enterprise and welcome continued dialogue on these matters.

Addition of Performance Improvement Officer as co-chair of Defense Business Council

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 914) that would amend section 2222(f) of title 10, United States Code, to include the Department of Defense Performance Improvement Officer as a co-chair of the Defense Business Council.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Plan for permanent establishment of Special Reconnaissance and Enabling Command

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 918) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for permanently establishing the Special Reconnaissance and Enabling Command (SREC).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and the Commander, U.S.

Special Operations Command, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for establishing and maintaining the SREC. The plan required by subsection shall, at a minimum, include the following:

- (1) An articulation of the mission and tasks assigned to the SREC;
- (2) An explanation of how the SREC fits organizationally within the U.S. Special Operations Command;
- (3) An identification of the personnel, resources, and authorities, including any gaps, necessary to support the SREC; and
- (4) Any other matters the Assistant Secretary and the Commander consider appropriate.

Feasibility study on expanding the services provided by the Air Force Office of Commercial and Economic Analysis

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 920) that would require the Secretary of Defense to complete a study on the feasibility and advisability of expanding the services of the Office of Commercial and Economic Analysis (OCEA), including an estimate of the costs of such expansion.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note the cost-effective success of the OCEA office in providing crucial business intelligence to various actors within the U.S. Government to help inform thinking about the broader economic implications of certain acquisition decisions. We note that historically such decisions have focused primarily on the national security impacts, but with less emphasis or in-depth understanding of the larger economic consequences that should inform those national security decisions. We applaud the Air Force for fostering the creation of a critical mass of such economic, financial and industrial policy expertise to help improve decision-making in the Department.

Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility of expanding the scale and type of services offered by OCEA, including a cost estimate for such expansion, and submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than June 1, 2025.

We direct the Secretary to include in this report the possibility of expanding OCEA to provide additional commercial and economic analysis more broadly to other Department of Defense (DOD) components, including trend analysis. This report should also examine the feasibility of OCEA servicing as a data

hub for providing additional business intelligence data historically purchased by components of the Department from commercial sources, including firmographic and ownership information of commercial actors, documentation submitted by importers and exporters, ownership information pertaining to intellectual property rights, and information relating to mergers and acquisitions.

We also note the creation of a National Defense Economic Competition Research Council elsewhere in this bill, of which OCEA will be a member. The study should address OCEA's ability to contribute to the research tasks identified in that provision.

Senior Integration Group for Indo-Pacific Region

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 918) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a Senior Integration Group for the Indo-Pacific Region.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We strongly support the Department's use of Senior Integration Groups or similar cross-functional teams to integrate activities below the levels of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense. We encourage the Department to consider establishing such a forum to address the multifaceted aspects of national defense challenges in the Indo-Pacific region in coordination with U.S. allies and partners.

Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion Renewal

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 923) that would limit the authority of the Secretary of Defense to renew the Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion until 120 days after submitting a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives detailing a justification for such renewal.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

TITLE X—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—FINANCIAL MATTERS

Sec. 1001 - General transfer authority

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1001) that would allow the Secretary of Defense, with certain limitations, to make transfers between amounts authorized for fiscal year 2025 in division A of this Act. This provision would also limit the total amount transferred under this authority to \$6.0 billion.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1001).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 1002 - Repeal of audit incentive element in report requirement of Financial Improvement and Audit Remediation Plan

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1003) that would amend section 240b of title 10, United States Code, to exclude audit incentives from the reporting requirement in the Financial Improvement and Audit Remediation Plan.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1003 - Authority to use Defense Modernization Account funds for time-sensitive equipment modernization

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1005) that would amend section 3136(d) of title 10, United States Code, to expand authorized uses of the Defense Modernization Account to the procurement and integration of commercial technologies and services for satisfaction of certain requirements and provision of infrastructure projects that accelerate the fielding and adoption of new capabilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1004 - Extension of audit requirement for Department of Defense components

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1005) that would reduce the discretionary budget authority available for the Department of Defense, the military department, or the Defense Agency if the respective entity has not submitted a financial statement for the previous fiscal year, or if such financial statement has not received either an unqualified or a qualified audit opinion by an independent external auditor.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that extends by one year the existing requirement in section 1004(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) that each component of the Department of Defense shall be subject to an independent audit and if any such component fails to be subject to such an audit during any fiscal year through 2034, it shall have 1.5 percent of unobligated amounts available for the component cancelled and returned to the general fund of the Treasury for deficit reduction.

Sec. 1005 - Revision of Department of Defense financial management regulation

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1002) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to revise the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation to ensure that the regulation is consistent and clear throughout, includes updated guidance with respect to legislative and regulatory requirements, and does not include guidance subject to change annually in an annual appropriations act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1002).

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1006 - Establishment of cross-functional team to oversee implementation of recommendations of Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1003) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a cross-functional team for the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 915).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

We encourage the Secretary of Defense to coordinate with the following officials when establishing the cross-functional team: (1) The Deputy Secretary of Defense; (2) The Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); (3) The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; (4) The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering; (5) The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment; (6) The Director of Cost Assessment

and Program Evaluation; (7) The Director of Administration and Management; (8) The Chief Information Officer; (9) The Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer; (10) The Secretaries of the military departments; (11) The comptrollers of the military departments; and (12) The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

We direct the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to include the following elements in the reports and briefings required by this provision: (1) An assessment of the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform; (2) An identification of the official or officials responsible for the implementation of each such recommendation; (3) A description of the timeline and actions for implementation; (4) The rationale and justification for any decision not to implement such a recommendation; (5) Recommendations for actions to reform and modernize the planning, programming, budgeting, and execution process in addition to the recommendations of the Commission; (6) Performance metrics for measuring the effectiveness of recommendations that have been implemented; (7) A comprehensive budget justification display reflecting the resources required to implement the recommendations, resources requested in the Department of Defense budget, and resources needed in subsequent fiscal years; and (8) An assessment of legislative, regulatory, and administrative barriers to implementation of the recommendations and the need for changes to legislative authorities required for implementation of the recommendations.

We also encourage the Department to use one of the general and flag officer billets authorized elsewhere in this Act if a senior military officer is chosen to serve as director of the cross-functional team.

Sec. 1007 - Use of technology using artificial intelligence to facilitate audit of the financial statements of the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2025

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1006A) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments to encourage, to the greatest extent practicable, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) or machine learning (ML) for audits of Department of Defense financial statements.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that includes a description of the use of AI or ML technologies for audits of Department of Defense financial statements— including an update on the implementation of the strategy titled "2023 Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence Adoption Strategy" (dated June 27, 2023).

SUBTITLE B—COUNTERDRUG ACTIVITIES

Sec. 1011 - Support for counterdrug activities affecting flow of drugs into United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1008) that would require the Secretary of Defense to prescribe guidance to prioritize counterdrug activities affecting drug flows into the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1012 - Authority for detection and monitoring of illegal drugs regardless of destination

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1007 and 1010) that would modify Department of Defense support for counterdrug and counter transnational organization activities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 351).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1013 - Review, assessment, and analysis of governance structure and strategy of Department of Defense counter-narcotics and counter-transnational organized crime activities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1059) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an independent review, assessment, and analysis of the governance structure of the counter-narcotics and counter-transnational organized crime activities of the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would expand the independent review to include an assessment of the strategy of the Department of Defense for counter-narcotics and counter-transnational organized crime.

SUBTITLE C—NAVAL VESSELS AND SHIPYARDS

Sec. 1021 - Briefing required in the event of a proposed reduction in battle force ships as part of the annual naval vessel construction plan and certification

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1011) that would require the Navy to be consistent in the first 10-year planning window of the annual 30-year Shipbuilding Report to Congress.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require an assessment in the event of a proposed reduction in battle force ships as part of the annual naval vessel construction plan and certification.

Sec. 1022 - Modification of authority to purchase used vessels under the National Defense Sealift Fund

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 128) that would amend section 2218 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Navy to buy up to 13 used, foreign-built vessels to modernize the Ready Reserve Force.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision, modified to allow for the purchase of up to 10 foreign-built vessels.

Sec. 1023 - Modifications to ship repair authorities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1013) that would require the Navy to solicit ship repair contracts on a coast-wide basis to only those that are projected to last more than 18 months.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, amended to require the Navy to solicit ship repair contracts on a coast-wide basis to only those that are projected to last more than 12 months. We expect the Navy to produce a report after one year of

implementation of this revised limit on the price differential between the current 10-month limit and the new 12-month limit.

Sec. 1024 - Improving Navy assessments required prior to start of construction on first ship of a shipbuilding program

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1014 and sec. 1015) that would require: (1) Congressional certification prior to the start of construction on the first ship of a shipbuilding program; and (2) The Navy to improve analysis and assessment of decisions made prior to the start of construction on first ships of a Navy shipbuilding program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1021).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require a certification to Congress prior to start of construction on first ship of a shipbuilding program.

Sec. 1025 - Prohibition on contracting with shipyards controlled by a foreign adversary country

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 809) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from entering into any contract or other agreement with a shipyard controlled by a foreign adversary.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1026 - Exception to prohibition of overhaul, repair, or maintenance of certain vessels in shipyards outside the United States or Guam

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1016) that would amend section Section 8680 of title 10, United States Code, to allow the Navy to perform preventative maintenance that is required while a ship is on deployment and is limited to 21 days or less to conduct that maintenance in a shipyard outside the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 323) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to conduct a pilot program, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to perform maintenance and repair on forward-deployed naval force ships in foreign shipyards during scheduled maintenance and repair periods. The

provision would: (1) Terminate the pilot program after 3 years; (2) Require the Secretary of the Navy to produce an annual report during the pilot program; and (3) Require the Secretary to provide that report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would allow the Navy to perform corrective and preventative maintenance maintenance on a Navy ship overseas for a period of up to 21 days, provided that the cumulative maintenance performed on ships from a particular homeport does not exceed 2% of the average workload over the previous three years for the same homeport.

We recommend that the Navy use any such short maintenance periods, as the situation allows, to conduct necessary ship-checks to support post-deployment, U.S.- based maintenance availabilities. Proper use of these windows in foreign shipyards should allow the Navy to complete all necessary maintenance planning 360-days prior to a U.S.-based maintenance availability.

Sec. 1027 - Strategy on development of naval rearm at sea capability

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1017) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to submit to the congressional defense committees a strategy for delivering a particular rearm at sea capability to the surface fleet of the United States Navy.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, modified to focus on the capability to rearm at sea, rather than a particular solution to achieve that capability.

Sec. 1028 - Authority to use incremental funding to enter into a contract for the construction of a Virginia-class submarine program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1018) that would provide incremental funding authority for an additional Virginia-class submarine in fiscal year 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 129) that would also increase funding for the Virginia-class submarine program with offsets from elsewhere in the Navy budget.

The agreement includes the House provision with various technical amendments and an amendment to stipulate that funds

available from a change to the contracting approach may only be used to provide for an increase in wages for the shipbuilder workforce or an increase in non-executive level salaries.

We are concerned with the lack of transparency that has occurred between the Navy and Congress over the last 18 months. The Navy negotiated a funding strategy with industry that would have addressed cost growth, future cost to complete, workforce wage increases and infrastructure investments at both shipyards. The Navy did this in isolation and failed to not only inform Congress but also the Office of Management and Budget.

As a result of the lack of communication, the Office of Management and Budget has not moved the strategy forward and Congress has been denied the opportunity to review the strategy's documentation and details. To remedy the deficiencies, the Office of Management and Budget asked Congress for significant emergency appropriations in fiscal year 2025 to support a plan that will require an undisclosed amount of additional appropriations above the future years' estimates in the President's Budget for fiscal year 2025. At no point during the normal budgeting and legislative process did the Navy inform Congress that there was large cost growth on the fiscal year 2024 submarines and the one fiscal year 2025 submarine being requested. Unfortunately, the lack of communication regarding program challenges and potential solutions has left Congress with few options to address this situation and likely none that will rectify it going forward.

We recognize that Congress has responsibility for oversight of the executive branch including access to information on how final decisions were reached, particularly for decisions of strategic importance where the dollar value of such a decision far surpasses the major defense acquisition program threshold. Denial of requests for information and veiled threats of reprisals against briefers to Congress who may provide requested information creates a dangerous precedent that is out of line the checks and balances inherent to the branches of government of the United States.

Sec. 1029 - Authority to use incremental funding to enter into a contract for the construction of an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer

We recommend a provision that would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to enter into an incrementally funded contract for the construction of an Arleigh Burke class destroyer.

Sec. 1030 - Pilot program on use of automated inspection technologies at shipyards

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1019) that would authorize a pilot program to procure automated inspection technologies for maintenance inspections of naval vessels and upgrade information technology infrastructure to support integrating these technologies.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1031 - Requirements for the unmanned maritime autonomy architecture

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1022) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to provide a forum on unmanned maritime autonomy architecture to facilitate industry participation in the creation and management of modular open systems architecture and associated standards for maritime unmanned systems.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1032 - Competitive demonstration of large and extra large unmanned underwater vehicles

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1023) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to conduct a competitive demonstration of extra large unmanned underwater vehicles— including non-developmental items from commercial or foreign partner sources.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would include in the demonstration large unmanned underwater vehicles in addition to extra large unmanned underwater vehicles.

Sec. 1033 - Requirement for mature ship design

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1026) that would:

(1) Amend section 231 of title 10, United States Code, to require senior technical authority determination of commercial or nongovernmental standard approval, or contract solicitation allowance, prior to incorporation of such assumptions into shipbuilding cost estimates;

(2) Require the Secretary of the Navy to adopt certain recommendations of the Government Accountability Office;

(3) Amend section 8669a of title 10, United States Code, to require source selection for new classes of vessels to emphasize the realism of the ability of offerors to deliver program requirements on schedule;

(4) Amend section 8669b of title 10, United States Code, to require collaboration between the Naval Systems Engineering and Logistics Directorates of Naval Sea Systems Command and the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems with respect to use of funds from the start of the requirements process; and

(5) Amend section 231(b) of title 10, United States Code, to require an explanation of reductions to the procurement of a class of vessels in the future years defense program from year-to-year.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of the Navy to implement recommendations 1, 3, 4, and 6 in the report of the Government Accountability Office titled, ``Navy Shipbuilding: Increased Use of Leading Design Practices Could Improve Timeliness of Deliveries'', and dated May 2, 2024 (GAO-24-105503).

In addition, we direct the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, in coordination with the Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), to provide a report, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that details the following:

(1) All references to external specifications regardless of source— including military specifications, NAVSEA instructions, American Bureau of Shipbuilding and other standards— that were included on the *Constellation*-class frigate solicitation for detail design and construction;

(2) Which specifications in paragraph (1) allowed for alternative specifications— including alternative specifications conditional on NAVSEA approval;

(3) How many alternative specifications allowed in paragraph (2) were recommended by the awarded contractor in their proposed response to the solicitation for the *Constellation*-class frigate detail design and construction contract in comparison to how many alternative specifications were ultimately approved by NAVSEA;

(4) An explanation for why such alternative specifications in paragraph (3) were not approved by NAVSEA;

(5) The status of all requests for equitable adjustments that the Navy received on the *Constellation*-class frigate;

(6) An unaltered statement from the awarded contractor of the *Constellation*-class frigate of the findings provided in paragraphs (1) through (5) above; and

(7) Proposed actions for how best value tradeoffs will be improved in source selections for shipbuilding contracts.

SUBTITLE D—COUNTERTERRORISM

Sec. 1041 - Extension of prohibition on use of funds for transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1031) that would prohibit the use of any funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2025, to transfer or release detainees at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1031).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1042 - Extension of prohibition on use of funds to construct or modify facilities in the United States to house detainees transferred from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1032) that would prohibit the use of any funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense to be used during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2025, to construct or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any detainee transferred from U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1032).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1043 - Extension of prohibition on use of funds for transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to certain countries

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1033) that would prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this act and ending on December 31, 2025, to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release of any individual detained at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1033).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1044 - Extension of prohibition on use of funds to close or relinquish control of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1034) that would prohibit the use of any funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2025 for the closure or abandonment of United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the relinquishment of control of Guantanamo Bay to the Republic of Cuba, or the implementation of a material modification to the Treaty Between the United States of America and Cuba signed in the District of Columbia on May 29, 1934, that constructively closes United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1034).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE E—MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITIES AND LIMITATIONS

Sec. 1051 - Authority to contribute to innovation fund

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1041) that would amend subchapter II of chapter 138 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to contribute to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Innovation Fund up to \$200,000,000 per year over a 10 year period.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment that would limit such funding for a 5-year period.

Sec. 1052 - Extension of authority for reimbursement of expenses for certain Navy mess operations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1043) that would extend the authority for reimbursement for certain Navy mess operations until September 30, 2030.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 333).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1053 - Assessments of casualties and fatalities during hostilities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1044) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from citing casualty and fatality data from terrorist organizations as authoritative in public assessments during hostilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1054 - Establishment of major mishap incident designation classification for Department of Defense incidents

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1045) that would establish a new mishap designation classification for serious mishap incidents resulting in \$500.0 million or more in damage, causing at least five fatalities, or otherwise designated by the Secretary of the military department concerned; and establish investigatory and accountability standards for such mishaps.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would eliminate the requirement for mandatory separation for misconduct contributing to the mishap, and clarify the definition of major mishap to include elements of complexity in the underlying incident.

Sec. 1055 - Prohibition on use of funds for EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1045) that would prohibit funds authorized to be appropriated for fiscal

year 2025 for work performed in the People's Republic of China by EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. or any of its affiliates.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1265).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would prohibit Department of Defense funds for fiscal year 2025 for any work performed by EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., including by: any subsidiary of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.; any organization directly controlled by EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.; any individual or organization subgrantee or subcontractor of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.; and prohibits funds for fiscal year 2025 for the Wuhan Institute of Virology for any purpose.

Sec. 1056 - Prohibition on Department of Defense transportation of currency to Taliban or Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1046) that would prohibit any funds authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense being made available for the operation of any Department of Defense aircraft to transport currency or other items of value to the Taliban.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1057 - Prohibition on use of funds for Badr Organization and related organizations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1049E) that would prohibit the Department of Defense to make any amounts appropriated available, directly or indirectly, to the Badr Organization.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1058 - Limitation on use of funds pending provision of briefing on reliance of People's Liberation Army on imported fossil fuels for energy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1059) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the feasibility of implementing naval blockades of shipments of fossil fuels to China in the event of an armed conflict with the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would limit the obligation or expenditure of more than 85 percent of the funds available for the Office of the Secretary of Defense for travel expenses until the Secretary provides to the congressional defense committees the briefing regarding the reliance of the People's Liberation Army on imported fossil fuels for energy, as directed by the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

Sec. 1059 - Prohibition on use of funds to support entertainment projects with ties to the Government of the People's Republic of China

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1317 and sec. 1709) that would prohibit the use of funds to support any entertainment company or project owned or controlled by the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Republic of China, or the People's Liberation Army that has used, produced, or co-produced content for propaganda purposes.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1043).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE F—STUDIES AND REPORTS

Sec. 1061 - Chief of Navy Reserve annual report

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1052) that would amend section 8083 of title 10, United States Code, to require an annual report from the Chief of Navy Reserve.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1062 - Modification and extension of requirement for combatant command risk assessment for airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1060) that would amend section 1061 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) to include cancellation of an intelligence,

surveillance, and reconnaissance system as an event that would trigger a combatant commander assessment; and to extend the sunset date of the provision to December 31, 2032.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1063 - Extension of briefing requirement regarding civil authorities at the Southwest border

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1053) that would extend, through December 31, 2027, a quarterly briefing requirement on Department of Defense support to civil authorities at the southwest border.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would adjust the extension to December 31, 2025.

Sec. 1064 - Extension of annual report on civilian casualties in connection with United States military operations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1053) that would extend the annual report on civilian casualties by 5 years.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1054).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1065 - Review of irregular warfare authorities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1052) that would require the Secretary of Defense to review the authorities relevant to the conduct of Department of Defense irregular warfare activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1066 - Reports on approval and deployment of lethal autonomous weapon systems

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1062) that would require the President to submit an annual report related to the approval and waiver processes for lethal autonomous weapon systems under current Department of Defense policy.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1067 - Congressional notice regarding execute orders issued at the direction of the president or the Secretary of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1056) that would require a review and report of certain Department of Defense orders involving the use of lethal force.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide the congressional defense committees with recurring briefings on execute orders and to provide those committees with certain notices and disclosures.

Sec. 1068 - Mobility capability requirements study

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1054) that would require the Commander, U.S. Transportation Command to submit a report and provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services 1 year after enactment of this Act, with an interim report and briefing 6 months after enactment of this Act, to assess the operational risk for meeting the mobility requirements of the geographic combatant commanders.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, modified to require only a briefing 6 months after enactment of this Act.

Sec. 1069 - Biodefense posture reviews

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1051) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a comprehensive examination of the biodefense policies, practices, programs, and initiatives of the Department of Defense every 4 years.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 907).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct two reviews, not later than December 31, 2026 and December 31, 2029, and provide a briefing on each review.

Sec. 1070 - Briefings on attempts by aliens and foreign actors to access military installations without authorization

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1066) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis thereafter, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report that identifies, with respect to the one-year period preceding the date of the report, the number of instances in which an alien not lawfully present in the United States (1) attempted to enter a military installation in the United States; or (2) gained entry to such an installation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would change the recurring annual report to an annual briefing through 2027, limit the recipients of the briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and include information about the identities of covered persons unlawfully attempting to gain access to military installations.

Sec. 1071 - Report on resourcing of Arctic Strategy

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1069A and sec. 1241) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the congressional defense committees and the congressional research agencies on cost data for the Arctic Strategy for each fiscal year 2026 through 2031 and require the inclusion of Special Operations Forces in planning and strategy relating to the Arctic region.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1063).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would modify the cost data required and set the reporting requirement through fiscal year 2028.

Sec. 1072 - Analyses and reports on air superiority of the Joint Force

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1056) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct or sponsor an analysis of how the air superiority mission will be secured for the Joint Force in the 2030s and 2040s.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would also require the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide a separate report on the requirements for air superiority capacity.

Sec. 1073 - Exercise for countering unmanned aerial systems

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1058) that would require the Secretary of Defense to plan and execute a full-scale counter unmanned aerial system response exercise in Department of Defense special use airspace by July 1, 2025.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would extend the deadline for conducting the exercise until December 1, 2025, and extend the deadline for the Secretary's report until March 1, 2026.

Sec. 1074 - Report on operational plans of the Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1065) that would require the Secretary of Defense to complete a review of the operational plans of the Department of Defense and outline any shortfall in personnel, equipment, munitions, infrastructure, or material required to execute such operational plans.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would modify the elements of the review and require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the congressional defense committees on the results of the assessment.

Sec. 1075 - Quarterly reports on funerals at Arlington National Cemetery on hold until caisson services resume

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1073) that would amend section 7721 of title 10, United States Code, that would require the Secretary of the Army to submit a monthly report on the status of families that are awaiting caisson support for funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would modify the reporting requirement to quarterly frequency and further defines report termination requirements.

Sec. 1076 - Plan for enhancement of special operations riverine capability

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1083) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), to provide a plan for the sustainment and enhancement of a special operations riverine capability within SOCOM through fiscal year 2035.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

We believe that there is significant potential for unmanned maritime capabilities to provide special operations forces with asymmetric warfighting advantages and strongly encourage SOCOM to continue research and development of such capabilities to fulfill special operations-peculiar requirements.

Sec. 1077 - Annual report on Postsecondary Education Complaint System

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1723) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide to Congress and make publicly available on the Department of Defense's website an annual report on the Postsecondary Education Complaint System.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with technical amendments and an amendment that would limit the recipients of the annual reports to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Sec. 1078 - Study and report on Department of Defense use of unmanned ground vehicle systems manufactured by certain foreign entities

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6067) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on Department of Defense use of covered unmanned ground vehicle systems made by covered foreign entities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would condition a prohibition on covered unmanned ground vehicles on a recommendation from the Secretary of Defense.

SUBTITLE G—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 1081 - Introduction of entities in transactions critical to national security

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1088) that would amend section 1047 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) to authorize the Secretary of Defense to convene private companies to discuss market trends and opportunities abroad.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1082 - Installation energy plans and assessment for reduction of reliance on Russian energy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1073) that would amend section 1086 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) to apply to all operating bases within U.S. European Command and limit the obligation and expenditure of certain funds authorized for travel expenses for the Office of the Secretary of Defense until the Secretary provides the required report.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1083 - Extension of the National Commission on the Future of the Navy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1074) that would extend the authorization for the National Commission on the Future of the Navy from until July 1, 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1024) that would extend the authorization for the National Commission on the Future of the Navy until January 15, 2026.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1084 - Modification of National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1075) that would amend section 1091 of the National Defense Authorization

Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) to extend the authority of the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology to appoint members, the due date for its final report, and its termination date.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1082).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1085 - Modification of defense sensitive support notification requirement

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1076) that would amend section 1055(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) to modify the congressional notification requirement to a quarterly summary of routine defense sensitive support provided to non-Department of Defense Federal departments or agencies and permit time-sensitive and extraordinary security protections support congressional notifications after conclusion of the supported activity or simultaneously with the execution of the supported activity.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would allow a quarterly summary of routine defense sensitive support provided to non-Department of Defense Federal departments or agencies in lieu of the existing congressional notification requirement each time such support is provided by the Department of Defense.

Sec. 1086 - Plan for additional skill identifiers for Army Mountain Warfare School

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1079) that would require the Secretary of the Army to establish certain additional skill identifiers for Army Mountain Warfare School courses.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would limit eligibility for certain skill identifiers to enlisted members, warrant officers, and commissioned officers, respectively.

Sec. 1087 - Establishment of Department of Defense Working Group on Multilateral Artificial Intelligence Coordination

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1090) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a working group, to be known as the "Multilateral Artificial Intelligence Working Group," to develop and coordinate an artificial intelligence initiative among the allies and partners of the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1283).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1088 - Resumption of caisson services at funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1072) that would require the Secretary of the Army to start conducting funerals with caisson services at Arlington National Cemetery or enter into a contract to provide such services.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would condition resumption of such caisson services.

Sec. 1089 - Liaison with Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems Task Force

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1087) that would require the Director of the All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office to designate a liaison to the Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems Task Force to improve coordination in areas of shared responsibility.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1090 - Responding to unmanned aircraft systems incursions

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1057) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop— as part of the National Defense Strategy required under section 113(g) of title 10, United States Code— a holistic strategy for countering unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and the threats that such systems pose to facilities, personnel, and assets of the Department of Defense in the United States and overseas; and authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide support to Federal, state, and local government agencies for

detection, identifying, and monitoring of UAS that cross the northern and southern borders of the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require a Department of Defense strategy for countering unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) technology and the threats such technology poses to facilities, personnel, and assets of the Department of Defense in the United States. The amendment also requires an assessment and report on the Department of Defense's existing counter-UAS enterprise, a compilation of any recommended changes to the Department's counter-UAS enterprise, recommendations for requirements for the Department of Defense to pre-coordinate planned actions in response to anticipated types of UAS incursions with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, and any other information the Secretary deems relevant.

We agree that U.S. troops have the inherent right of self-defense, including from UAS attacks, wherever they may be.

Sec. 1091 - Prioritization of accreditation of sensitive compartmented information facilities supporting DX-rated programs

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1089) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a framework for prioritized review, accreditation, and reaccreditation of sensitive compartmented information facilities and classified communications at certain facilities supporting DX-rated programs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1092 - Establishment of national security capital forum

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1078) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a forum to facilitate information exchange related to transactions or potential transactions of the Office of Strategic Capital.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1090).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1093 - Implementation of Comptroller General recommendations relating to the food program of the Department of Defense

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5352) that would require the Secretary of Defense to implement the recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States contained in the report published by the Comptroller General in June 2024 and titled ``DOD Food Program: Additional Actions Needed to Implement, Oversee, and Evaluate Nutrition Efforts for Service Members'' (GAO-24-106155) or if not, to provide a report explaining why the Secretary has not implemented these recommendations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1094 - Pilot program to provide military aircraft support to air shows

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1092) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, to establish a pilot program to provide military aircraft and aerial demonstration teams in support of air shows located in rural or small market areas.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a 1-year pilot program under which the Secretary shall provide military aircraft and aerial demonstration teams in support of air shows located in rural or small market areas.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Congressional notification of transfer of funds

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1004) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a notice of transfer whenever the Secretary transfers amounts under the authority of section 2214 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include House provision.

We note that the congressional defense committees receive notifications and conduct robust oversight of transfers of Department of Defense funding.

Oversight requirements for Financial Improvement and Audit Remediation Plan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1006) that would amend section 240b(b) of title 10, United States Code, to require the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to provide a briefing on the status of the corrective action plan.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that section 240 of title 10, United States Code, contains robust recurring reporting requirements on the financial audit.

Report on Department of Defense operational planning to defeat Mexican drug cartels

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1009) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on Department of Defense operational planning to defeat Mexican drug cartels.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Department of Defense, in conjunction with other U.S. departments and agencies, supports the continuing national priority to identify, disrupt, and degrade transnational criminal networks that pose threats to U.S. national security, including Mexican transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), which remain a major criminal threat to the United States. We note that in addition to working with other U.S. departments and agencies, the Department of Defense conducts security cooperation activities with the Government of Mexico to build the capacity of the Mexican armed forces to counter TCOs.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit an assessment, not later than April 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding:

(1) Specific military assets, capabilities, and competencies of the Mexican armed forces associated with and relevant to efforts to counter TCOs operating in Mexico, including any DoD assessments of recent Mexican military operations against transnational criminal organizations;

(2) An identification of any gaps in the assets and capabilities of the Mexican armed forces for which the Department of Defense could focus future security cooperation efforts;

(3) A review of the Department of Defense's counter-narcotics support to the Mexican armed forces, including an

assessment on the effectiveness of such support and a description of potential areas of expansion in cooperation between the Department of Defense and the Mexican armed forces; and

(4) Any other matter the Secretary deems appropriate.

The assessment should be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Sale or donation of excess Department of Defense personal property for drug surveillance and interdiction

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1010A) that would amend section 2576a(d) of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense preference transferred property for counterdrug surveillance and interdiction by local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies within 100 miles of the United States-Mexico border that have an annual budget of not more than \$200.0 million.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Minimum number of public naval shipyards

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1012) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to operate not fewer than four public naval shipyards.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the four Navy public shipyards play a critical role in support of our national defense by providing crucial repair, maintenance, and modernization services for the Department of the Navy. The four public shipyards ensure that our naval fleet remains operational and capable of meeting evolving threats, thereby sustaining the Navy's readiness and strategic capabilities. By employing skilled workers and advanced technologies, the shipyards facilitate necessary overhauls and upgrades, which are vital for maintaining the effectiveness of both surface ships and submarines. The capacity of the four public shipyards to rapidly respond to emerging needs also improves the Navy's ability to project power globally, ensuring that our nation remains prepared to defend its interests and allies.

Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of guided missile cruisers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1020) that would prohibit the retirement of the guided missile cruisers USS *Shiloh* (CG-67) and USS *Lake Erie* (CG-70).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We believe that the Navy's recent announcement of the extension of service lives of three guided missile cruisers means that the Navy should be able to maintain sufficient guided missile cruiser capability without the need to extend the lives of CG-67 and CG-70.

We direct the Secretary of the Navy to submit an assessment, not later than June 1, 2025, of the advisability and feasibility of using a decommissioned Navy guided missile cruiser as a platform for an open architecture testbed for novel digital technologies, software, and systems to enable continuous testing, validation, and integration of emerging technologies that will be made available to private industry, academic institutions, and nonprofit organization to deliver capabilities that are not funded by the federal government subject to security and operational requirements.

Sense of Congress regarding naming warships after Navy Medal of Honor recipients

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1021) that would provide a Sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy should name warships after Navy recipients of the Medal of Honor from World War I to the present.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Study related to recruitment and retention of apprentices at public shipyards

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1022) that would require the Commander of United States Naval Sea Systems Command to submit a study to Congress relating to the recruitment and retention of apprentices at public shipyards.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Navy to assess the adequacy of recruitment and retention of apprentices across the four public shipyards, and to provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on this assessment that includes: (1) summarized data, disaggregated by shipyard, relating to recruiting and retention of apprentices across the public shipyards, including demographic information on applicants, recruiting incentives offered, apprenticeship completion rates for accepted applicants, the average duration of service for graduates of an apprenticeship, and reasons why individuals voluntarily left the program; (2) an assessment of the feasibility of sharing apprenticeship data across the public shipyards and allowing apprentices to transfer between shipyards; (3) any other matter the Secretary determines is relevant to assess the adequacy of recruiting and retention in the shipyard apprenticeship program.

Sense of Congress regarding naming of naval vessel after Lieutenant General Richard E. Carey

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1023) that would provide a Sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy should name the Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport vessel of the United States Navy that has been ordered (Hull Number T-EPF-16) in honor of Lieutenant General Richard E. Carey.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Sense of Congress regarding naming of naval vessel after Major James Capers, Jr

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1024) that would provide a Sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy should name a vessel of the United States Navy the "U.S.S. Major James Capers Jr." in honor of Major James Capers, Jr.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Sense of Congress regarding naming a naval vessel after William B. Gould

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1025) that would provide a Sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy should name a commissioned naval vessel after formerly enslaved

sailor and Civil War veteran, William B. Gould, to honor his strength of character and faithful service to the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibition on operation of connected vehicles designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign entity of concern on Department of Defense property

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1048) that would ban connected vehicles that are designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by foreign entities of concern that pose an undue or unacceptable risk to national security from entering U.S. military bases and Department of Defense installations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Department of Commerce has recently announced a proposed rule that would prohibit the import and sale in the United States of connected vehicles, or component parts, with sufficient nexus to foreign entities of concern. We further note, that malicious access to these vehicles and systems presents a particular risk to Department of Defense installation security. Acknowledging the on-going rulemaking, we note that should these systems enter the United States market via vehicles not manufactured by foreign entities of concern, there may be practical challenges related to identification of these vehicles at entry control points, which the Department will have to manage. Accordingly, we direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on both the Department's views of the proposed rulemaking and how the Department would mitigate risk should these systems be allowed into the United States' automobile market.

Prohibition on Department of Defense transport of Palestinian refugees to the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1049) that would prohibit the use of funds for the transport of Palestinian refugees to the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained provisions (sec. 1048 and sec. 2855) that would prohibit the Secretary of

Defense from using any asset, facility, or installation of the Department of Defense for transport or processing of any individual from the West Bank or Gaza who is not a United States citizen, the immediate family member of a United States citizen, or a former United States government employee, for the purposes of resettlement in the United States.

The agreement does not include the House or Senate provisions.

Limitation on authority of Armed Forces to detain citizens of the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1049B) that would limit the authority of Armed Forces to detain citizens of the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibition on use of funds to cut services provided at certain combat training readiness centers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1049C) that would prohibit the use of funds from being used to cut any service provided by a combat training readiness center operated by the Air Force National Guard at certain locations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize the importance of the Air Force Combat Readiness Training Centers (CRTCs). We note the Administration is not planning on closing any CRTCs in Fiscal Year 2025 and encourage the Department of the Air Force to keep the congressional defense committees apprised of any potential changes to the scope or mission of the CRTCs.

Elimination of discretion of military chain of command and senior civilian leadership with respect to display of flags

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1049D) that would amend section 1052(d)(1)(N) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) by striking subparagraph (N) to eliminate a commander's authority to approve a flag unauthorized by statute.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Suspension or revocation of certain permissions to access classified information

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1049F) that would require the Secretary of Defense to suspend or revoke a security clearance held by a covered individual if such individual has expressed support for a terrorist organization or engaged in a demonstration supporting a terrorist organization.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the current security clearance forms for initiating a background investigation already include questions on support for terrorist organizations. We urge the Department to continue to place focus on these questions during the adjudication process, which provides the proper forum for making decisions regarding such background investigation concerns.

Report on price elasticity of labor supply at shipyards and supplier firms

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1058) that would require a report on price elasticity of labor supply at shipyards and supplier firms.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Navy to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on the price elasticity of the labor supply for the industrial base for building and maintaining naval vessels, including at private-sector shipyards, public-sector naval shipyards, and supplier firms. This report shall include:

(1) The full cost of hiring and training workers at shipyards and supplier firms;

(2) The extent to which retention of workers at shipyards and supplier firms may be improved by changes in pay and benefits for those workers;

(3) The potential impact of such increases in pay and benefits on costs for procuring and maintaining naval vessels with consideration of any increased labor productivity that may result from improved retention; and

(4) Recommendations for any extraordinary relief or other contractual mechanisms that may be appropriate for shipbuilding programs to increase pay and benefits for workers at shipyards and supplier firms.

Comptroller General review of food waste at Department of Defense and Coast Guard facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1060) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of food waste at Department of Defense installations and Coast Guard locations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on any current or planned efforts by the Department of Defense to decrease food waste on military installations. The briefing shall include any current or planned efforts by the Department to track food waste across its facilities, any analysis conducted by the Department to determine the causes of any food waste at such facilities, any Department policies regarding the management of food waste, and any challenges or partnerships with other Federal agencies to reduce food waste.

Study on feasibility of establishment of Centers of Excellence for Servicewomen's Health

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1061) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing one or more centers of excellence for servicewomen's health, pursuant to the authority under section 1073d(b) of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We encourage the Secretary of Defense to establish centers of excellence for servicewomen's health under existing authorities.

Report on fielding certain wearable devices for impact protection against traumatic brain injury

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1063) that would require the Secretary of the Army to provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report regarding the fielding of wearable devices for impact protection.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Utilization of office space by the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1064) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a written report to the Administrator of the General Services Administration regarding the utilization of office space by the Department of Defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include House provision.

We remain committed to ensuring efficient use of resources across the Department of Defense, with a particular focus on maximizing the effective use of space. We recognize that maintaining oversight of facility utilization is critical to optimizing space allocation and reducing unnecessary expenditures, allowing more resources to be allocated to mission-essential activities. Additionally, we note that this agreement includes a provision from the House bill (sec. 2838) that would require the Department of Defense to decrease expenditures on leased facilities by 25 percent over the next 5 years.

Feasibility study on establishment and maintenance of Department of the Air Force training center at Eaker Air Force Base, Blytheville, Arkansas

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1065) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report on the feasibility and advisability of a reactivation of Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville, Arkansas to serve as an Air Force Training Center.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of using Eaker Air Force Base as an Air Force Training Center. The briefing shall include an assessment of: existing facilities, any relevant strategic geography of the location, the overall cost to the Department of Defense, and if the National Cold War Center poses any logistical or security concerns for any future training operations.

Study on use of space-available travel for donated human organs

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1067) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a feasibility study regarding the transport of human organs by organ procurement organizations under the space-available travel program under section 2641b of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than September 30, 2025, on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a program to provide for the transport of human organs by organ procurement organizations under the space-available travel program.

Study and report on Department of the Navy policies with respect to net metering

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1068) that would require the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment) to carry out a study on net metering.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Navy to provide a briefing to the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on net metering policies and practices within the Department of the Navy. The briefing shall include, at a minimum: (1) A summary of the Department of the Navy's current policies and procedures regarding net metering; (2) A list of each military installation under the Secretary of the Navy's jurisdiction that uses net metering; (3) A review of practical methods and approaches at each installation for implementing net metering, focusing on operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness; and (4) Recommendations from the Secretary of the Navy on potential actions to maximize the operational value of net metering for its installations.

Briefing on Department of Defense program to protect United States students against foreign agents

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on

the Department of Defense program to protect United States students against foreign agents.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees by June 15, 2025 on the updated status of the program described in section 1277 on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91), including an assessment on whether the program is beneficial to students interning, working part-time, or in a program that will result in employment post-graduation with Department of Defense components and contractors.

Report on training and safety program for operation of assault amphibious vehicles

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069B) that would require the Secretary of the Navy, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility, advisability, and potential benefits of establishing a training and safety program for the operation of assault amphibious vehicles.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize the efforts of the Marine Corps to improve the safe operation of both the assault amphibious vehicle (AAV) and amphibious combat vehicle (ACV). Therefore, we direct the Secretary of the Navy, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the actions taken to improve the training and safety program for the operation of the AAV and ACV.

Updates to national biodefense strategy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069C) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise, update and provide the most recent version of the national biodefense strategy and associated implementation plan required under section 1086 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the administration issued an updated National Biodefense Strategy and Implementation Plan for Countering Biological Threats, Enhancing Preparedness, and Achieving Global Health Security in October of 2022 and that the Department of Defense published its Biodefense Posture Review in August of 2023. We believe that the administration and the Department of Defense should routinely update the National Biodefense Strategy and the Biodefense Posture Review as threats and capabilities change to ensure that U.S. capabilities keep pace with the threat environment as directed in section 1069 of this bill.

Report on modifications of expeditionary transfer dock ships

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069D) that would require the Chief of Naval Operations, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, not later than March 1, 2025, to submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on recommended modifications to the Expeditionary Transfer Dock Ships that will best enable at-sea sustainment of Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-South) partner nation patrol vessels and United States Coast Guard Fast Response Cutters.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We agree that the Chief of Naval Operations, in consultation with JIATF-South, should develop recommended modifications to the Expeditionary Transfer Dock Ships that could improve our ability to provide at-sea sustainment of JIATF-South partner nation patrol vessels.

Report on military and weapons lost during withdrawal from Afghanistan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069E) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report that includes an accounting of all the military equipment and weapons lost to the Taliban during the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the requirement in this provision is addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Assessment of the health care system supporting military installations in the R-2508 airspace

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069F) that would direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments concerned, to develop an assessment of the health care system supporting the military installations within the R-2508 Airspace to ensure adequate health care for the civilian and military workforce.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

GAO review and report on biological weapons experiments on and in relation to ticks, tick-borne disease

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069G) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report on Department of Defense research regarding biological weapon experiments on and in relation to ticks and tick-borne disease.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that we have addressed similar provisions in prior National Defense Authorization Acts—specifically, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92), the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81).

Assessment of influence of China in Pacific Island nations

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1069H, sec. 1243, and sec. 1314) that would modify the Department of Defense's annual report on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China required by section 1202 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65) to include among its report elements the influence of China in Pacific Island nations, the relationship between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and developments concerning the Tibetan Plateau. The House bill also contained a provision (sec.

1069J) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress on the use of rifle-toting robot dogs by China.

The Senate bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1262) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide the congressional defense committees with a report on corruption in the People's Liberation Army.

The agreement does not include these provisions.

We believe future iterations of the Department of Defense's annual report on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China required by section 1202 of Public Law 106-65 should include, to the extent feasible, an analysis of influence of China in Pacific Island nations, the relationship between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran, developments concerning the Tibetan Plateau, corruption in the People's Liberation Army, and the threat to the national security of the United States posed by China's development of advanced technologies, including robotics.

Comptroller General study on use of unmanned vehicles to reduce Department of Defense expenses

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069I) that would require Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess ways unmanned vehicles can reduce overall operating expenses and costs at the Department of Defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess ways unmanned vehicles can reduce overall operating expenses and costs at the Department of Defense. Such study shall include:

(1) An analysis of unmanned ground and air systems and a comparison of the capability, capacity, and operating cost tradeoffs associated with each such system and those associated with similar manned technologies or systems;

(2) Recommendations regarding new areas in which unmanned technology could supplant or complement manned systems in order to reduce overall force operating costs; and

(3) Such other matters as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

Furthermore, we direct the Comptroller General to provide an interim briefing on this study to the congressional defense

committees, not later than March 31, 2025, with a final report to be provided at an agreed upon time.

Study on testing of foreign adversary highly autonomous vehicles

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069K) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the relevant Federal agencies, to conduct a study on the effects on the national security of the United States of highly automated vehicles associated with foreign adversary countries operating or testing in the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

In light of the Department of Commerce's recently proposed rule to ban imports and sales of vehicles with certain vehicle connectivity system or automated driving system technology with a link to the People's Republic of China or Russia, the managers believe this study would be better conducted by the Department of Commerce rather than the Department of Defense.

Report on effectiveness of the Optimizing the Human Weapon System Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069L) that would require the Secretary of the Army to provide a report on the Optimizing the Human Weapon System Program of the Army.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Army, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing that includes:

- (1) An analysis of the effectiveness of the Optimizing the Human Weapon System Program of the Army; and
- (2) Recommendations for improving and expanding the Program.

Comptroller general study on dredging capacity and port readiness

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069M) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess the capability and capacity of the Department of Defense to complete harbor and channel dredging at seaports that require such dredging.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We agree with the concerns expressed in the Senate report accompanying S. 4638 (S. Rept. 118-188) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 recognizing that strategic seaports designated under the Strategic Seaport Program are critical transportation nodes necessary to support U.S. military rapid deployment requirements. We understand that there may be insufficient U.S. dredging capacity that has created a backlog in federal navigation maintenance work limiting the readiness of some seaports. We agree that the Commander, U.S. Transportation Command should provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on impacts that reduced dredging capacity may have had on designated strategic seaports. The briefing should identify any operational impacts of reduced dredging of designed strategic seaports, and if applicable, provide recommendations on the prioritization of available dredging capacity.

Report on red flags missed in Janet Yamanaka Mello fraud scheme

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069N) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the fraud scheme perpetrated by Janet Yamanaka Mello, a civilian employee of the Department of the Army, who was indicted and pleaded guilty to stealing over \$100 million in Army funds.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on Navy use of immersive learning capabilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069O) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report on the Navy's use of immersive learning capabilities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Senate Report accompanying this Act directed the Secretary of the Navy to deliver a briefing not later than January 1, 2025 on extended reality training. We further direct this briefing to be delivered to the Armed Services Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives. Additionally, we direct the Secretary of the Navy to submit a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and

the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on how extended reality (XR) training capabilities have been, or potentially could be, integrated into training across the U.S. Navy. The briefing shall include any efforts of the U.S. Navy to coordinate with the U.S. Air Force on lessons learned related to XR training, an identification of any relevant XR training strategies, and any limitations or barriers to XR training integration, to include ensuring compliance with relevant cybersecurity requirements. We note the Secretary may combine these two briefings into one, if appropriate.

Department of Defense report on potential cost savings from use of artificial intelligence

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1069P) that would require the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller) to provide a report on the potential cost-savings of incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) and multi-domain, attributable autonomous, semi-autonomous, unmanned systems, capabilities and processes into the military department and the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that there are clear indications that the use of AI systems will contribute to mission effectiveness, as well as cost effectiveness, of military operations. Because of the pervasive application of AI across the defense enterprise, we further note the difficulty in obtaining high fidelity information on the broad cost-savings that might accrue. We believe that the Department should focus on specific use cases to estimate cost savings and that such anecdotal information should inform broader extrapolation for decision-makers.

Expedited access to certain military installations of the Department of Defense for Members of Congress and certain Congressional employees

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1071) that would authorize expedited access to military installations for members of Congress and certain congressional employees.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than March 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on any

proposed updates or changes to procedures regarding ongoing efforts by the Department to finalize military installation access procedures for members of Congress and congressional staff.

Air Force Technical Training Center of Excellence

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1072) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to operate a Technical Training Center of Excellence.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing, not later than April 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a Technical Training Center of Excellence.

The briefing should include:

- (1) Any costs associated with standing up the Center;
- (2) Impacts on planned reorganization from Air Education and Training Command to Airman Development Command;
- (3) Effects on current responsibilities of the Air Force with regard to training maintainers; and
- (4) Any other benefits or consequences that the Secretary deems relevant.

Post-employment restrictions for participants in certain research funded by the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1077) that would prohibit principal investigators of Department of Defense-funded research into critical and emerging technologies at institutions of higher education from seeking or accepting employment with certain foreign entities for a period of 10 years after the end of their involvement in such research.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Tabletop exercise on extreme weather events in the Indo-Pacific region

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1080) that would require the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, to conduct at least one tabletop exercise to assess the ability of

the U.S. Armed Forces and the military and naval forces of allies and partners to confront aggressive adversarial threats in the Indo-Pacific region while simultaneously confronting extreme weather hazards.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We expect that the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) will conduct one or more tabletop exercises in calendar year 2025, to assess the ability of the U.S. Armed Forces and the military and naval forces of allies and partners of the United States to confront aggressive adversarial threats in the Indo-Pacific region while simultaneously addressing the effects of extreme weather. At a minimum, any such exercise should examine:

(1) The resilience of U.S. weapons, systems, force posture, and command and control to withstand extreme weather events during a contingency in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) The ability of the U.S. Armed Forces to conduct logistics during an extreme weather event, including the ability to resupply U.S. forces, allied and partnered forces, and affected civilian populations;

(3) The resiliency of USINDOPACOM to withstand extreme weather events;

(4) The ability of USINDOPACOM to continue operations with a partial or complete loss of overseas critical infrastructure due to extreme weather;

(5) The ability of the U.S. Armed Forces, in coordination with allies and partners, to resist force or other coercion by an aggressor during extreme weather, including potential scenarios involving command and control that is affected or impaired by extreme weather conditions;

(6) The effectiveness of air defense capabilities to deter missile threats from the People's Republic of China or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during extreme weather;

(7) The ability of military and naval forces to operate in every domain during extreme weather; and

(8) The extent to which ground-based targeting and firing would be affected by extreme weather in the Indo-Pacific region.

Furthermore, in conducting any such tabletop exercise, we suggest that the Commander, USINDOPACOM, consider utilizing, as appropriate, the expertise and facilities of a postsecondary education institution of the Department of Defense. We also urge the Commander, USINDOPACOM, to consider the participation of other appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal

Government, state and local governments, and outside experts, as appropriate, in the conduct of such tabletop exercises.

Lastly, we direct the Commander, USINDOPACOM to provide a briefing, not later than March 31, 2026, to the congressional defense committees on all tabletop or other exercises conducted by USINDOPACOM in calendar year 2025 that assessed the ability of the U.S. Armed Forces and the military and naval forces of allies or partners of the United States to confront threats in the Indo-Pacific region while simultaneously addressing the effects of extreme weather.

Pilot program on Army readiness in contested logistics environments

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1081) that would establish a pilot program, through the Combat Training Directorate, to ensure that all troops at Army schools train on all expeditionary basing systems.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Assessment regarding antifouling coatings

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1084) that would require the Department of Defense to assess the feasibility of alternatives to copper-based antifouling coatings.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than March 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the feasibility and advisability of moving away from copper-based antifouling coatings.

The briefing should include:

(1) A notional timeline to remove existing copper-based antifouling coatings from naval vessels by January 1, 2028;

(2) Criteria for antifouling effectiveness, measured by the duration of time such coating prevents biological adhesion, corrosion, and degradation of vessel surfaces, environmental damage caused by shedding and leaching of the coating, and the effect of the coating on fuel efficiency and vessel speed; and

(3) An evaluation of whether a new antifouling coating standard could reduce time and costs associated with maintenance, while also being environmentally sound.

Prior to the briefing, the Secretary should evaluate commercially available products, technologies, applications, and services that could be used to improve combat readiness by decreasing the need for re-application of antifouling coatings.

Authorization to use nonelectric vehicles at Yuma Proving Ground

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1085) that would require the Secretary of Defense to authorize members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense at Yuma Proving Ground to use nonelectric vehicles in the performance of their duties.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that such members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense may use non-electric vehicles in the performance of their duties.

Sense of Congress relating to expenditures for certain military housing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1086) that would express the sense of Congress relating to expenditures for certain military housing.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

University Centers for Arctic National Security Studies

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1087) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish or designate one or more University Centers for Arctic National Security Studies at institutions of higher education.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Psychological performance training in performance mindset

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1088) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide an annual

report on training for, and performance in, high-stress environments.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We understand that long-term exposure to high-stress environments can leave servicemembers in suboptimal performance states— possibly leading to compromised performance abilities and negative behaviors. The Air Force trains on the development of proactive psychological performance skills and strategies for psychological flexibility and mental strength. We recognize potential benefits to training to develop and maintain psychological performance skills and mental resilience.

We, therefore, direct the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing, not later than April 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the following:

(1) Efforts conducted previously or currently at Air Force Global Strike Command and Air Force Air Mobility Command to train airmen in psychological health and performance;

(2) Outcomes of such training efforts— to include any relevant airmen feedback;

(3) Costs associated with providing such training services;

(4) Efforts, if any, to budget and plan for expanding psychological performance skill training; and

(5) Any other relevant matters that the Secretary determines appropriate.

Declassification review of documents relating to involvement of United States in 1973 coup in Chile

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1091) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a declassification review of documents relating to the involvement of the United States in the 1973 coup d'état in Chile.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Capacity building and security cooperation with Mexico to counter threats posed by transnational criminal organizations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1011) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a plan for training members of the U.S. Armed Forces combined with members of the Mexican Armed Forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Authority of Department of Defense in surveillance of southwest border of United States

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1012) that would authorize the Department of Defense to share information collected as part of operations at the southwest border in support of Federal departments or agencies, with other Federal, state, or local authorities who are not receiving support from the Department of Defense, but who are also tasked to monitor movements to, or across, the southwest border.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Treatment by Department of Defense of request for support at southwest border of United States

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1013) that would require the Secretary of Defense to prioritize requests for support at the southwest border that are timely and define required capabilities for support.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Protection against misuse of Naval Special Warfare Command insignia

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1041) that would amend chapter 891 of title 10, United States Code, to prohibit the unauthorized use of certain Naval Special Warfare insignia and authorize a fine of not more than \$20,000 for each violation.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Requirements relating to payments by the Department of Defense for qualifying injuries to the brain

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1046) that would limit the obligation or expenditure of not more than 75 percent of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for travel expenses of the Office of the Secretary of Defense until the Secretary meets requirements

relating to payments by the Department of Defense for qualifying injuries to the brain.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note the progress in the federal rulemaking process required for the Department of Defense to implement section 901(i) of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b(i)) and that the Department intends to start providing payments authorized under such section in fiscal year 2025.

Report on Panama Canal security

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1051) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the vulnerabilities, safety, and security of the Panama Canal.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report, not later than May 30, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the vulnerabilities, safety, and security of the Panama Canal related to U.S. defense priorities, and that include the following elements:

(1) Identification of authority limitations in the conduct of security cooperation activities related to the Panama Canal area;

(2) An assessment of Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard limitations to identify, understand, and respond to threats and risks associated with the safe and secure operation of the canal;

(3) Identification of Panamanian partner capabilities and limitations, response posture, cross-sector security coordination, policy and procedures, and other factors that could challenge partner support to more intensive U.S. Coast Guard vessel (wartime and auxiliary) transit requirements;

(4) Identification of Panamanian laws and inter-Panamanian institutional policy and territorial jurisdiction that affect the ability of the Department of Defense to support securing and defending the canal;

(5) Identification of risks in relation to the Panama Canal Neutrality Treaty that could affect priority of U.S. transits during steady state, in crisis, and in conflict;

(6) An assessment of the interoperability of Panamanian and U.S. security forces if support is requested to defend the canal area, and recommendations on how to organize,

train, and equip U.S. forces, partner forces, and ensure bilateral preparedness;

(7) Identification of external threats to and malign influence on the independence of the canal and its operations in steady state, in crisis, and in conflict;

(8) Identification of statecraft or foreign-backed entity capabilities, strategies, and limitations to disrupt regular canal operations to achieve military effects on U.S. force and sustainment flow— including by kinetic and non-kinetic means, cyber and information operations, and condition-setting;

(9) Identification of logistical, force protection, and other throughput challenges to ensuring U.S. force and sustainment flow via the canal and canal area when uncontested by other state actors and in support of a major contingency in another theater of operation;

(10) An assessment of the resilience of the canal system in the event of an accident, basic security incident, or climate-induced or other water management challenge that may impede throughput;

(11) Recommendations for U.S. defense investments to enhance the capabilities of Panama to ensure the safety and security of the canal area; and

(12) An assessment of the canal's information technology and operational technology infrastructure and systems.

Consideration of protracted conflicts in planning assumptions

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1061) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities to deliver to the Secretary of Defense defense planning scenarios that include protracted conflicts of at least 6, 12, and 24 months as planning assumptions.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Study on combat accomplishments of remotely piloted aircraft crew

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1062) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an independent study to identify opportunities to provide more support services to, and greater recognition of, combat accomplishments of remotely piloted aircraft crew.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report, not later than January 1, 2026, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding support services available to, and recognition of combat accomplishments of, remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) crew.

The report should include:

(1) How members of RPA crews who have conducted combat operations are identified;

(2) Existing procedures in the military departments for documenting RPA crew members who have conducted combat operations;

(3) An assessment of whether establishing a new status identifier for RPA crews would improve in documentation, recognition, or support of RPA crew members who have conducted combat operations;

(4) An overview of individual and campaign decorations and awards available to RPA crews;

(5) An assessment of post-separation health benefits available to RPA crew members who have conducted operations; and

(6) Any other relevant recommendations, observations, or information that the Comptroller General deems appropriate.

Assessment of impact of transnational organized crime on military drug overdoses

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1064) that would require the directors of the military criminal investigation organizations to provide an assessment of the types of drugs responsible for drug overdoses on military installations, the origin of those drugs, and the impact of the drug overdoses to military readiness.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that transnational criminal organizations have developed significant fentanyl production and trafficking infrastructure that facilitates significant drug problems and associated overdose deaths in the United States, and that which affects Americans in general has the potential to affect Department of Defense specifically.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with directors of the military criminal investigation organizations and the Director of the Defense Health Agency, to provide a briefing, not later than July 1, 2025, to the Committees on

Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the number of service-member deaths attributable to drug overdoses found to be caused— in whole or in part— by fentanyl from January 1, 2018 through January 1, 2024, and the extent to which illicit fentanyl inhibits the readiness of the Armed Forces.

For the purposes of this briefing, the term “military criminal investigation organizations” means:

- (1) The Criminal Investigation Division of the Army;
- (2) The Criminal Investigative Service of the Navy;

and

- (3) The Office of Special Investigations of the Air

Force.

Report on undersea cable posture

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1066) that would require the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense to provide a report on the threats, defense, and resilience of undersea cables used by the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense (DOD-CIO) to submit a classified report, not later than December 30, 2025, to the congressional defense committees on the threats, defense, and resilience of undersea cables used by the Department of Defense. The report should include the following elements:

- (1) An assessment of the threats (i.e., physical, cyber, supply chain, and foreign ownership) to undersea cables owned or used by the Department of Defense— including:

- (A) The current procedure when threats to such cables are identified by or reported to the Department of Defense (Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) lead; the Joint Staff, and U.S. Cyber Command supporting);

- (B) The extent to which such cables are owned and operated solely by the Department of Defense, reported by agency or military department (DOD-CIO Management Office lead);

- (C) The extent to which such cables are owned and operated by non-government or commercial entities, but contracted to support the Department of Defense, reported by agency or military department (ODNI lead, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions and Sustainment supporting);

- (D) A list of Department of Defense missions that would be most severely disrupted by a loss of undersea cable capabilities (combatant commands lead prioritization); and

(E) Intelligence gaps concerning threats to such cables (ODNI lead)

(2) The Department of Defense's strategy to protect critical subsea cables and an assessment of the Department's ability to execute that strategy— including for cables not owned by the Department of Defense (DOD-CIO);

(3) An assessment of the Department of Defense's ability to restore critical subsea cable capabilities based on damage to or interdiction of existing undersea capabilities (DOD-CIO);

(4) An assessment of the Department of Defense's ability to execute processes to prioritize and support restoration efforts in the event that subsea cable capabilities are lost (DOD-CIO);

(5) Alternative capabilities to negate or mitigate the loss of critical undersea cable capabilities— including a primary, alternate, contingency, and emergency communication plan (DOD-CIO);

(6) A strategy for prioritizing Department of Defense missions in the event that undersea cable capabilities are lost (DOD-CIO);

(7) An assessment of support required from other Federal Government, private sector, and foreign partners to defend, maintain, and restore undersea cable capabilities (DOD-CIO) and

(8) An assessment of new or additional capabilities or authorities required to adequately defend, monitor, maintain or restore undersea cable capabilities (DOD-CIO)— including, if additional capabilities are required, an estimated budget to support.

Plan for procurement of military working equids for the Caisson Platoon of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Army

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1071) that would require the Secretary of the Army to provide a plan for the procurement of military working equids for the caisson platoon.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Army to provide a report, not later than March 31, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that details the Army plan for the procurement of military working equids for the Caisson Platoon of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Army. In developing the plan, the Secretary of the Army

should consult with at least two nationally recognized equid experts.

Land for operations and training of Caisson Platoon of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Army

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1074) that would amend section 366 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to require the Secretary of the Army to consider land in Virginia and West Virginia when contemplating land acquisition in support of the Caisson Platoon.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Plan for recapitalization of special operations surface combatant craft

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1084) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, to provide a plan for special operations surface combatant craft at end of service life for conversion into unmanned systems, as appropriate, to support experimentation and employment of manned-unmanned teaming capabilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, to jointly submit a plan, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to the congressional defense committees for converting special operations surface combatant craft at the end of service life into unmanned systems, as appropriate, to support experimentation and the use of manned-unmanned teaming capabilities.

Homeland defense planning requirements

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1085) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities to provide a report on defense critical assets in the United States that are likely targets for kinetic or non-kinetic attacks in the event of a major conflict with an adversary.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs, in consultation with the Commander, U.S. Northern Command, the Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, and the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, to submit an assessment, not later than April 1, 2025, to the congressional defense committees of the personnel and capabilities requirements for providing Department of Defense support to civil authorities in the event of a major foreign attack on the homeland.

The report should include:

(1) The Department's assessment of its existing capabilities for responding to an attack that impacts multiple domestic jurisdictions— including states, territories, and the District of Columbia;

(2) The number of personnel available to respond to such an attack;

(3) The availability of such personnel to respond to such an attack when Departmental personnel are forward deployed; and

(4) Additional authorities or personnel that would enable the Department to support civil authorities while simultaneously carrying out its other missions in the event of a major attack on the homeland.

Authority to provide contracted assistance to secure the southern land border of the United States

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1086) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to enter into services contracts to provide Department of Defense assistance to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to increase ongoing efforts to secure the southern land border of the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Preferred alternative for the Ambler Mining District in Alaska

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1094) that would require the Secretary of the Interior to select a preferred alternative relating to the provision of access to the Ambler Mining District in Alaska, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Report on portable, drone-agnostic munitions

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6031) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the feasibility and cost of acquiring and fielding portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of the Army provide a report, not later than October 31, 2025, to the congressional defense committees on the feasibility and cost of acquiring and fielding portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions. The report should include:

(1) The potential use of portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions to augment small unit tactics and lethality in the ground combat forces— including:

- (a) trench warfare;
- (b) countermine operations;
- (c) anti-armor uses; and
- (d) anti-personnel uses;

(2) The capability for portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions to have a dual tactical capacity to explode in the air or on impact;

(3) The cost-effectiveness, affordability, and domestic production capacity of portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions in comparison to one-way small uncrewed aerial systems;

(4) The use of portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions in the Ukraine conflict and best practices learned;

(5) The potential use of portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions in the defense of Taiwan;

(6) Procurement challenges, legal restrictions, training shortfalls, operational limitations, or other impediments to fielding portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions at the platoon level;

(7) A plan to equip platoon-sized ground combat formations in the close combat force with portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions at a basis of issue including a proposed timeline and fielding strategy;

(8) A plan to equip such other ground combat units with portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions;

(9) The capacity of the domestic defense industrial base to produce portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions;

(10) The capacity of the industrial bases of foreign partners to produce portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions;

(11) The feasibility of fielding portable, drone-agnostic droppable munitions in support of the findings of the report required by section 1071 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

Briefing on a second pilot program for advanced reactors

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6047) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on a pilot program to provide resilience for critical infrastructure at Department of Defense facilities with high energy intensity requirements through a contract with a commercial entity to site, construct, and operate at least one licensed reactor, capable of producing at least 60 megawatts of power— at a facility selected for purposes of the pilot program by December 31, 2029.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than June 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives describing the requirements for, and components of, a pilot program to provide resilience for critical national security infrastructure at Department of Defense (DOD) facilities with high energy intensity requirements by contracting with a commercial entity to site, construct, and operate at least one licensed reactor, capable of producing at least 60 megawatts of power— at a facility selected for purposes of the pilot program by December 31, 2029.

In regards to such a briefing, the Secretary of Defense should: (1) Consult with the Secretary of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Administrator of the General Services Administration; and (2) Submit the briefing in unclassified form, but may include a classified appendix.

The briefing should address how to explore a public-private partnership for the reactor to reduce ratepayer costs and avoid financial risk to DOD's mission. The briefing should also include:

(1) Identification of potential locations to site, construct, and operate a reactor— either at a commercial site that serves DOD's critical mission interests, or at a DOD facility that contains critical national security infrastructure that the Secretary determines may not be energy resilient;

(2) Assessments of different nuclear technologies— including technologies capable of producing at least 60

megawatts of power— to provide energy resiliency for critical national security infrastructure;

(3) A survey of potential commercial stakeholders with which to enter into a contract under the pilot program to construct and operate a licensed micro-reactor and, if appropriate, share offtake needs;

(4) Options to enter into long-term contracting— including various financial mechanisms for such purpose;

(5) Identification of requirements for reactors to provide energy resilience to mission-critical functions at facilities;

(6) An estimate of the costs of the pilot program;

(7) A timeline with milestones for the pilot program;

(8) An analysis of the existing authority of DOD to permit the siting, construction, and operation of a reactor;

(9) Recommendations for any legislative changes necessary for DOD to permit the siting, construction, or operation of a reactor;

(10) A strategy for deploying additional reactors at other sites— including through public-private partnerships; and

(11) A plan for implementing the pilot program— to begin implementation not later than 3 months after submission of the briefing.

Red Hill Health Registry

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6052) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a Red Hill incident exposure registry to collect data on health implications of petroleum-contaminated water for impacted individuals and potentially impacted individuals on a voluntary basis.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that legislation is not required to establish such a registry. In June 2024, the Secretary of Defense executed a 5-year cooperative agreement with a university to establish and maintain an independent registry of individuals who were exposed to, or at risk of exposure to, the Red Hill fuel release.

Requirement to include implementation plan in strategy to respond to unmanned aircraft systems incursions

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6057) that

would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a plan to expedite the testing, demonstration and validation of technologies that support the strategy required under subparagraph (A) of section 1057(a)(1).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Records preservation processes for certain at-risk Afghan allies

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6073) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a process for individuals to apply for classification as an Afghan ally.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

Sec. 1101 - Pilot program for the temporary exchange of information technology personnel

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1004) that would amend section 1110 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) to authorize the Secretary of Defense to include in the exchange program such personnel performing financial management or budgetary tasks for private-sector software-focused companies.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1102 - Extension of authority for noncompetitive appointments of military spouses by Federal agencies

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1101) that would extend authority for noncompetitive appointments of military spouses by Federal agencies until December 31, 2033, and require the Department of Defense to submit an annual report on the use of this authority.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1110) that would make permanent the authority of Federal agencies to make noncompetitive appointments of military spouses in the civil service under section 3330d of title 5, United States Code.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment relating to the reporting requirements.

Sec. 1103 - Extension of living quarters allowance to civilian DOD employees in positions with critical shortages stationed in Guam

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1102) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide a living quarters allowance to all Department of Defense (DOD) civilian employees with permanent duty in Guam.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would limit the use of this authority to DOD civilian employees filling positions determined by the Secretary to be critically short. The amendment would also sunset the authority on January 1, 2034.

Sec. 1104 - One-year extension of authority to waive annual limitation on premium pay and aggregate limitation on pay for federal civilian employees working overseas

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1103) that would amend section 1101 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417), as most recently amended by section 1105 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31), to extend for 1 year the authority of heads of executive agencies to waive the limitation on the aggregate of basic and premium pay of employees who perform work supporting certain military or contingency operations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1101).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1105 - One-year extension of temporary authority to grant allowances, benefits, and gratuities to civilian personnel on official duty in a combat zone

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1104) that would extend for 1 year the discretionary authority of the head of a Federal agency to provide allowances, benefits, and gratuities comparable to those provided to members of the Foreign Service to the agency's civilian employees on official duty in a combat zone.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1102).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1106 - Pilot program for overseas work-period for DOD competitive service positions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1105) that would remove the 5-year time limitation on civilian employees serving in a competitive position overseas and that require the Department of Defense to provide an annual report on the impacts of the removal of the time limit on recruiting and retention.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would authorize the first O-6 in an employee's chain-of-command to approve a one-time 5-year extension for an employee to continue serving in an overseas duty assignment. The amendment would also require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the Department's use of the authority provided by this section, first due December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter for five years. Finally, the amendment would sunset the authority provided by this section 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Sec. 1107 - Employment and compensation of civilian faculty members at Inter-American Defense College

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1109) that would amend section 1595(c) of title 10, United States Code, to add the United States Element of the Inter-American Defense College to the list of covered Department of Defense educational institutions at which the Secretary of Defense is authorized to employ and compensate civilian faculty as the Secretary considers necessary.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1107).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1108 - Treatment of veterans who did not register for the selective service

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1111) that would amend section 3328 of title 5, United States Code, to establish eligibility for Federal civilian employment for veterans who failed to register for selective service, but who provide evidence of their qualifying military service to the executive agency in which the veteran seeks an appointment.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 522).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1109 - Increase in military leave accrual and accumulation for Federal employees

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1112) that would amend section 6323 of title 5, United States Code, to increase military leave accrual and accumulation for Federal civilian employees from 15 to 20 days per year.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1110 - Sufficient firefighter personnel covered installations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1118) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure a minimum number of firefighter personnel are on duty at each covered installation to maintain optimum manning and optimum level of service to safeguard life and property at such covered installation and a risk assessment may not be used to limit the number of firefighter personnel at a covered installation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would ensure that a sufficient number of firefighter personnel are on duty at each covered installation to maintain manning and service necessary to safeguard life and property.

Sec. 1111 - Extension of direct hire authority for domestic industrial base facilities and Major Range and Test Facilities Base

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1104) that would amend section 1125 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) to extend the sunset date of the underlying direct hire authority for domestic industrial base facilities and major range and test facilities through the end of fiscal year 2030. Further, the provision would amend section 1102 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) to extend a briefing requirement on the use of the direct hire authority through the end of fiscal year 2030.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1112 - Modifications to the John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellows Program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1108) that would amend section 932(f) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232) to authorize the Secretary of Defense to make a noncompetitive appointment or conversion of a successful program participant into a vacant position in the competitive or excepted service within the Department of Defense (DOD), when the Secretary determines that such appointment or conversion will contribute to the development of highly qualified future senior leaders for the DOD.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1113 - Modification of pilot program on dynamic shaping of the workforce to improve the technical skills and expertise at certain Department of Defense laboratories

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1109) that would amend section 1109 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) to clarify that the early retirement incentives authorized for the dynamic workforce reshaping pilot program at Department of Defense science and technology reinvention laboratories are available for employees covered by the Federal Employees' Retirement System and not just those covered by the Civil Service Retirement System.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1114 - Continuity of coverage under certain provisions of title 5, United States Code

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1111) that would amend section 6323 of title 5, United States Code, to make technical and conforming amendments related to military leave for Federal employees for certain members of the Space Force.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1115 - Limitation on establishment of new diversity, equity, and inclusion positions; hiring freeze

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1116) that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from establishing any new positions within the Department of Defense with responsibility for matters relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion, or fill any vacancies in positions in the Department with responsibility for such matters.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1113).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from establishing any new billet, or filling any vacancies in existing billets, that have responsibility for matters relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion until the report required by section 529B of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) is delivered to Congress by the Comptroller General of the United States, or one-year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Waiver of limitation on appointment of recently retired members of armed forces to DOD competitive service positions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1106) that would waive the 180-day limitation on appointment of recently retired members of the Armed Forces to the Department of Defense competitive service positions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Department of Defense and the military departments may hire recently retired military personnel within the described 180-day window providing hiring managers comply with competitive processes established by the Office of Personnel Management.

Mandatory public disclosures by newly nominated civilians for senior positions in the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1108) that would require newly nominated civilians for senior positions in the Department of Defense (DOD) to make certain mandatory financial disclosures available on a publicly accessible website.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that as part of the Senate Armed Services Committee's process for considering civilian nominations to senior positions within DOD requiring Senate confirmation, information of the type described in the House provision is provided to the Committee for its and the Senate's use in the course of the Senate discharging its obligation to provide advice and consent on these nominations.

Supplemental guidance for MCO competitive service positions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1110) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director, Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and the Secretaries of the military departments, to establish supplemental guidance for qualification standards for mission critical competitive service positions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Department of Defense is struggling to recruit and retain civilians in mission critical occupations. This shortage can result in harmful impacts to our national security, and negatively impact morale, training, and readiness. Despite numerous efforts to alleviate these issues, including providing direct hire authority and pay and compensation incentives, civilian shortages in mission critical occupations persist. We note that shortages are further exacerbated by recruiting and retention protocols across the government, including long timelines for the OPM to approve or disapprove proposed incentives.

Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments and the Director, OPM, to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act, on alleviating civilian shortages for mission critical occupations across the Department. The report should include the following: (1) An established list of mission critical occupations across the services in which a civilian shortage has negatively impacted readiness across the last 3 years, and positions that are projected to persist or develop in the next 3 years, including information on the number of personnel shortages and efforts to recruit and retain these occupations; and (2) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of OPM delegating the authority to service secretaries to establish supplements to General Schedule Classification and Qualification Standards and waive or adopt occupational requirements under such mission

critical occupations, in order to expedite and streamline the process to provide incentives to mission critical occupations across the Department.

Flexibilities for Federal employees who are armed forces spouses

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1113) that would provide additional flexibilities for Federal employees who are also spouses of members of the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We understand that military spouses face significant challenges finding employment. We direct the Secretary of Defense, consistent with ongoing actions directed by Executive Order 14100, Advancing Economic Security for Military and Veteran Spouses, Military Caregivers, and Survivors, to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, no later than April 1, 2025, on: (1) Ongoing efforts to eliminate barriers to flexible work options for military spouses, to include telework; (2) Options to adjust Department of Defense policies to retain military spouses in existing positions in a telework capability; (3) Data regarding existing military spouse employment with the Department of Defense and military services; (4) Ongoing challenges with utilizing military spouse preferences to include the overseas direct hire authority; and (5) Any other matters the Secretary determines relevant.

GAO report on home-based businesses at remote military installations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1114) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to assess and submit a report to the Secretary of Defense on home-based businesses operating at remote and isolated installations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Expand Department of Defense civilian employment

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1115) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure that, to the extent practicable, each commercial position in the Department of Defense, or an element of the Department, is filled by a civilian employee of the Department or performed by a contractor

of the Department, within 5 years of the enactment of this section.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

OMB employment form requirement for DOD contractors

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1117) that would require all individuals hired by Department of Defense contractors under Department contracts to use the Declaration for Federal Employment Form OMB No. 3206-0812, typically used by Federal civilian employees.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by no later than April 1, 2025, on the number of instances over the past 10 years of Federal civilian employees whose Federal employment was terminated by reason of serious misconduct and then were rehired by a defense contractor for placement within the same office.

Report on reducing misconceptions about mental health and security clearance eligibility

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1853) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the Department's activities to inform members of the Armed Forces about how mental health affects security clearance eligibility.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We remain concerned about how misperceptions regarding the impact of mental health issues on security clearance eligibility might influence the willingness of military service members to seek necessary mental health treatment. We believe better communication on how such information is used in the process, including guardrails and clear guidance to the workforce, is important to destigmatize mental health care for those military service members who might benefit from such care, but also recognize the importance of maintaining their clearance for the duration of their career.

Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, by June 1, 2025, on the Department's activities to inform members of the Armed Forces about how mental health information is used in the security clearance eligibility process. Such briefing shall include:

(1) The Department's outreach and education activities to inform members of the Armed Forces about how questions regarding mental health care are used in the security clearance and adjudication process and the guidelines used to differentiate routine care from possible disqualifying events;

(2) The Department's outreach and education activities to ensure that health care providers in the military health system, non-medical counselors, TRICARE providers, and other relevant personnel convey accurate information to members of the Armed Forces regarding mental health and security clearance eligibility;

(3) The guardrails on the use of such information incorporated into guidance to the workforce for security clearance review and adjudication activities, and how questions or information regarding mental health care are used in continuous vetting processes; and

(4) Description of appeals processes available to military service members to dispute any decisions made related to mental health care events and how such information may have been used in the security clearance and adjudication process.

Removal of Direct Support Activities from personnel limitation on the Office of the Secretary of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1105) that would amend section 143(b) of title 10, United States Code, to modify the definition of personnel within the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) contained in that subsection, and to which the personnel limitation contained in section 143 applies, to no longer include military and civilian personnel assigned to, or employed by, direct support activities of the OSD or the Washington Headquarters Services.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Authority to provide increased voluntary separation incentive pay for civilian employees of the Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1106) that would amend section 9902 of title 5, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of voluntary

separation incentive pay for Department of Defense civilian employees from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Modification of direct hire authority for domestic defense industrial base facilities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1112) that would amend section 1125 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) to include positions within the Navy Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion, and Repair under the direct hire authority for the domestic defense industrial base authorized by that section.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We encourage the Department of the Navy to work with the Office of Personnel Management to acquire the desired authority through existing regulatory means.

Prohibition on considering applicant's commitment to diversity, equity, or inclusion in hiring process for certain positions at Department of Defense educational institutions

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1114) that would prohibit the Department of Defense (DOD) from requiring or considering a diversity statement from an applicant for employment at a DOD educational institution.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

TITLE XII—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN NATIONS

SUBTITLE A—ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

Sec. 1201 - Modification of authority to build capacity of foreign security forces and modification of support for execution of bilateral agreements concerning illicit transnational maritime activity in Africa

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1237 and sec. 1601) that would amend subsection 333(a) of title 10, United States Code, authority to build capacity of foreign security

forces, to include space domain awareness, defensive space operations, and counter-illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing operations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1202).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would modify subsection 333(g) of title 10, United States Code, to extend the availability of funds for programs across fiscal years, and modify section 1808 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

Sec. 1202 - Modification of authority for Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1204) that would amend section 352 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize payment of fixed costs associated with the Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School from amounts made available for operation and maintenance, procurement, and military construction, among other modifications.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1203 - Assessment, monitoring, and evaluation of programs and activities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1202) that would modify a requirement for the Secretary of Defense to provide reports on assessment, monitoring, and evaluation of security cooperation programs and other related activities of the Department of Defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1204 - Quarterly briefings on counterterrorism operations, irregular warfare, and sensitive activities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1281) that would amend section 485 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to provide the congressional defense committees with quarterly briefings on counterterrorism, irregular warfare, and other sensitive activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1205 - Extension of modification to authority to provide support for conduct of operations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1213) that would extend and modify an increase in the limitation on the aggregate value of all logistic support, supplies, and services provided to friendly foreign countries for the conduct of operations under section 331 of title 10, United States Code, through fiscal year 2026.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with various technical and clarifying amendments extending and modifying an increase in the limitation on the aggregate value of all logistic support, supplies, and services provided to friendly foreign countries for the conduct of operations under section 331 of title 10, United States Code, through fiscal year 2026, and requiring an annual report under section 386 of title 10, United States Code.

We understand that the United States Government and members of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission in Haiti have publicly expressed a desire to transition the MSS mission to the United Nations or a similar multinational structure. We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on Department of Defense support under section 331 of title 10, United States Code, for the MSS Mission in Haiti. Such report shall, at a minimum, include the following:

- (1) A list of countries participating in the MSS Mission in Haiti that are eligible for Department of Defense support under section 331 of title 10, United States Code;
- (2) A description of the type, cost, and duration of support to be provided;
- (3) A description of the United States national security interests supported by such mission;
- (4) A description of known contributions to such mission by the international community; and
- (5) With respect to such mission, a plan for the transition from support provided by the Department of Defense to support provided by other elements of the United States Government and international partners.

We also direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, that includes a summary of support provided under section 331 of title 10, United States Code, during fiscal years 2023 and 2024. Such report required shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) A description of operations so supported in each such fiscal year; and

(2) A list of recipients of such support, including a description of the type and associated cost of such support.

Sec. 1206 - Extension of authorities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained provisions (sec. 1208 and sec. 1215) that would extend section 1208 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) and section 1210(E) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) through 2027.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provisions with technical amendments.

Sec. 1207 - Extension and modification of defense operational resilience international cooperation pilot program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1204) that would extend the Defense Operational Resilience International Cooperation (DORIC) pilot program through 2027.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1209) that would extend the DORIC pilot program through 2030 and increase the annual cap on expenditures under the authority to \$15.0 million per year.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would extend the DORIC pilot program through 2027 and increase the annual cap on expenditures under the authority to \$15.0 million per year.

The DORIC pilot program authorizes engagement with military forces of partner countries on defense-related environmental and operational energy issues in support of the theater campaign plans of the geographic combatant commands. We note that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) clarified that DORIC can be used for the provision of sustainment and non-lethal assistance, including training, defense services, and supplies (including

consumables). We encourage the Department of Defense to focus the use of the DORIC authority on high-payoff projects with foreign partners that have clearly defined operational relevance and a need for such assistance, even if such an approach results in the Department funding fewer projects on an annual basis. We understand these high-payoff projects may be more expensive on a per-project basis and note the agreement would increase the overall cap on the authority to \$15.0 million per year in anticipation of these requirements. Given the limited nature of this authority, funds executed under this authority must be strictly prioritized to achieve the greatest benefit for the geographic combatant command and partner.

Sec. 1208 - Acceptance and expenditure of contributions for multilateral security cooperation programs and activities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1201) that would amend subchapter I of chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to accept, retain, and expend contributions, including money, personal property, and services, from one or more foreign governments, to carry out security cooperation activities in which the foreign partner, or partners, share a national security interest with the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to accept, manage, and expend contributions, including funds, defense articles, and defense services, from foreign governments for mutually agreed upon purposes to carry out security cooperation programs and activities pursuant to certain authorities. The authority provided by the provision would expire on December 31, 2029.

Sec. 1209 - Temporary authority to provide training to military forces or national security forces of Costa Rica and Panama

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1210) that would authorize U.S. general purpose forces conducting training with friendly foreign countries under section 321 of title 10, United States Code, notwithstanding subsection (a)(2) of that section, to train the military forces or national security forces of Costa Rica and Panama and pay for specified expenses related to such training and exercises from the date of the enactment of this Act through December 31, 2030.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1210 - Improvements to defense acquisition workforce for foreign military sales

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1289) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue guidance to the defense acquisition workforce and the security cooperation workforce governing the execution of foreign military sales (FMS) and establish a FMS Continuous Process Improvement Board to serve as an enduring structure within the Department of Defense to advise the Secretary on ways to improve the FMS process of the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing a dedicated Department of Defense contracting capacity to support the FMS process, and provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than December 1, 2025. We note that the study required by this section should focus on the need, if any, to create a cadre of specialized contracting officers dedicated to the FMS process, not on the creation of a new process for adjudication of foreign military sales. The agreement would also establish a FMS Continuous Process Improvement Board to advise the Secretary of Defense on matters relating to the FMS process.

SUBTITLE B—MATTERS RELATING TO ISRAEL

Sec. 1211 - Statement of policy ensuring Israel's defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1232) that would state that it is the policy of the United States to work with Israel to ensure adequate defense against Iran and its proxies.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Government of Israel where feasible, to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate not later than June 1, 2025, on the extent to which Israel was subject to aerial attacks, from rockets or missiles

between October 7, 2023 and December 31, 2024, that Israel countered by deploying or utilizing not less than 50 Iron Dome interceptors, David's Sling or Arrow defense systems. The report shall include:

(1) A listing of the number of deployments of Iron Dome interceptors, David Sling or Arrow defense systems during the reporting period;

(2) A listing of the estimated cost of deploying Iron Dome interceptors during the reporting period;

(3) An identification of components or munitions required for the replenishment of Iron Dome interceptors, David's Sling or Arrow defense systems that were deployed or utilized to counter attacks during the reporting period;

(4) An estimate of the costs for any such replenishment;

(5) A listing of any requests made by the Government of Israel to the Government of the United States for any such replenishment, and the response to any such requests; and

(6) An estimate of the timeframe under which the United States resupplied Israel with such defense systems.

Sec. 1212 - Modification of United States-Israel anti-tunnel cooperation

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1206) that would amend section 1279 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) to expand cooperation with Israel to improve anti-tunneling technologies and increase the limit on the amount authorized for such activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1213 - Requirement to conduct subterranean warfare military exercises

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1233) that would require military exercises in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility to conduct an annual counter-tunneling exercise with Israel.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1214 - Strategic partnership on defense industrial priorities between the United States and Israel

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1249) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit and appropriate counterparts of Israel.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1215 - Establishment of program between the United States and Israel for military trauma education and training

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1235) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish an education and training program to be known as the "United States and Israel Trauma and Amputee Rehabilitation Education and Training Program."

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

SUBTITLE C—MATTERS RELATING TO THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

Sec. 1221 - Key partners for Middle East Regional Integration Military Subject Matter Expert Exchange Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1216) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with other relevant agencies and using existing authorities, including section 311 of title 10, United States Code, to establish a subject matter expert exchange program between U.S. military forces and ally and partner forces of the Middle East working to advance regional integration.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1211).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1222 - Extension and modification of annual report on military power of Iran

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1212) that would amend section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization

Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) to include additional reporting requirements on the military power of Iran.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1223 - Modification of report on the military capabilities of Iran and related activities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1220A) that would amend section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) to modify the report on the military capabilities of Iran and related activities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1224 - Prohibition on providing funding to Iranian entities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1219) that would prohibit funds to be made available, directly or indirectly, to Iranian entities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1225 - Notification relating to arms trafficking by Iran

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1225) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide notification to the congressional defense committees after any identified transfer of weapons or related materials by Iran to an Iranian-linked group or a second country outside the territory of Iran.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1226 - Assessment and plan with respect to equipment provided to Kurdish Peshmerga forces

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1226) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act

and every 120 days thereafter, to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives assessing whether equipment provided under section 1236 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) and designated for Kurdish Peshmerga forces is being provided in a timely manner, and a plan for resolving any delay of such equipment intended for Kurdish Peshmerga forces.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would additionally direct the Secretary of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees every 120 days regarding the rationale for the delay of the plan of action to equip and train Iraqi security forces and Kurdish Peshmerga forces to defend against attack by missiles, rockets, and unmanned system pursuant to section 1266 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) until such plan is delivered. The provision is further amended to clarify that the requirements directed pursuant to this section are not intended to overturn or impede the current United States policies toward Iraq.

We remain concerned about the increasing threat environment from air and missile threats against the Iraqi people, the territory of Iraq, and the coalition forces who remain in Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi government to assist Iraqi and Kurdish forces. We urge the Secretary of Defense to provide the plan of action without further delay.

Sec. 1227 - Extension of authority for reimbursement of certain coalition nations for support provided to United States military operations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1205) that would amend section 1233 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) to increase the limitation on authority for funding from \$15.0 million to \$75.0 million and extend the authority for reimbursement of certain coalition nations for support provided to U.S. military operations through December 31, 2025.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1228 - Extension and modification of security briefings on Afghanistan

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1282) that would amend section 1092 of the National

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) to extend the requirement for security briefings on Afghanistan and modify the briefing dates through December 31, 2026.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1229 - Notifications regarding terrorist groups in Afghanistan

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1286) that would require the Secretary of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees within 30 days of identifying any new training facility in Afghanistan that is operated or staffed by al-Qaeda, ISIS Khorasan, or other United States designated terrorist organizations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1230 - Extension of authority to support operations and activities of the office of security cooperation in Iraq

The agreement includes a provision that would extend the authority to support operations and activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq for an additional year.

Sec. 1231 - Extension and modification of authority to provide assistance to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1211) that would extend the existing authority under section 1236 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ``Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) by 1 year to continue providing support to partner forces in Iraq to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and help ensure ISIS cannot resurge.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1222).

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

We note the current threat environment in Iraq, including an uptick in malign activity by ISIS and unmanned aerial system attacks from Iranian militia groups. We further note that in September, the U.S.-Iraq Higher Military Commission announced the transition of the global coalition to defeat ISIS to a bilateral security relationship with the Government of Iraq. We

commend the work of the members of the Counter-ISIS coalition to degrade and defeat ISIS, including the Iraqi Security Forces and Peshmerga Forces.

Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the congressional defense committees not later than March 1, 2025, to provide further details on how the transition of the global coalition to defeat ISIS could impact, interact, or coincide with the Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund program.

Sec. 1232 - Extension of authority to provide assistance to vetted Syrian groups and individuals

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1212) that would extend existing authority under section 1209 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ``Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) by 1 year to provide assistance to vetted Syrian groups for countering the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in Syria.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1221).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1233 - Statement of policy on recognition of the Assad regime

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1226) that would prohibit the recognition of Bashar al-Assad or any government in Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad, oppose recognition of an Assad regime by other governments, and prohibit Federal officials from taking any action or expending any funds that would recognize or otherwise imply recognition of the Assad regime.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment, noting that it is the policy of the United States to not recognize or normalize relations with any government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad due to the Assad regime's ongoing crimes against the Syrian people.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Modification of Department of Defense State Partnership program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1201) that would extend, by a year, the period of performance of activities

pursuant to the Department of Defense State Partnership Program under section 341(e)(1)(A) of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Modification of Department of Defense support to stabilization activities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1203) that would amend section 1210A of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) to require that Department of Defense support for stabilization activities be provided on a reimbursable basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1207) that would amend section 1210A of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) to extend the authority of the Department of Defense to support stabilization activities through December 31, 2026.

The agreement does not include either provision.

Report on compliance by the Department of Defense with the limitation on military-to-military exchange or contact with representatives of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1205) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report that describes compliance by the Department of Defense with the limitation on military-to-military exchange or contact with representatives of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of the People's Republic of China under section 1201 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than March 1, 2025, to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees on the risk that the PLA could gain indirect knowledge of United States military capabilities or operational tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) through their engagement with allies and partners of the United States. The briefing shall also include an explanation of efforts by the Department of Defense to mitigate the compromise of such capabilities and TTPs by the PLA, including the conduct of end-use monitoring.

*General Thaddeus Kosciuszko memorial exchange program for
Polish-American defense cooperation*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1206) that would require the Commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, to carry out a training program pursuant to section 322 of title 10, United States Code, between special operations forces under the jurisdiction of the Commander and special forces of the Polish Army.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

*Report on cooperation between the National Guard and the
Republic of India*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1207) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the feasibility and advisability of enhanced cooperation between the National Guard and the Republic of India.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding the feasibility and advisability of enhanced defense cooperation between the United States and the Republic of India. Such briefing shall include the following elements:

(1) A description of the cooperation between the United States military and the Indian military during the 10 preceding calendar years, including mutual visits, exercises, training, and equipment opportunities;

(2) An evaluation of the feasibility and advisability of enhancing defense cooperation between the United States and the Republic of India on a range of activities, including:

- (a) disaster and emergency response;
- (b) cyber defense and communications security;
- (c) military medical cooperation;
- (d) mountain warfare;
- (e) jungle warfare;
- (f) counterinsurgency;

(g) counterterrorism;
(h) cultural exchange and education of members of the United States military in Hindi; and
(i) programs for United States military advisors to assist in training the reserve components of the military forces of India.

(3) Recommendations to enhance such cooperation and improve interoperability, including through familiarization visits, cooperative training and exercises, and co-deployments;

(4) Identification of States that may serve as potential partners with India through a State partnership under section 341 of title 10, United States Code; and

(5) Any other matter the Secretary of Defense or Secretary of State deems appropriate.

Help Israel Recover the Hostages

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1214) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, to provide a briefing that contains an overview of United States diplomatic, military, and intelligence support for Israel as it works to release the hostages.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, to provide a briefing, along with the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the congressional intelligence committees, not later than March 1, 2025, that contains an overview of United States diplomatic, military, and intelligence support for Israel as it works to release the hostages.

The briefing shall cover the following, relating to supporting the release of the hostages:

(1) An overview of United States military assistance to Israel;

(2) How the United States military is assisting the Israeli military on hostage rescue planning and recovery efforts;

(3) An overview of United States personnel embedded or regularly liaising with Israel's military and diplomatic officials in support of hostage release;

(4) A description of how the United States is leveraging partner nations to assist with hostage release efforts; and

(5) Any other forms of assistance provided the Secretary determines relevant to Israel's efforts to release the hostages.

Statement of Congress relating to Israel and the hostages held by Hamas

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1215 and sec. 1217) that would express a statement of Congress relating to Israel and the hostages held by Hamas and that would express a sense of Congress regarding Israel.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provisions.

We strongly condemn the October 7th, 2023, attacks by Hamas on the people of Israel, during which approximately 1,200 people were murdered, including 46 U.S. citizens, and over 250 people were taken hostage, including 12 Americans. We urge the release of the remaining hostages, as well as a durable solution to the security challenges facing Israel, including from Iran and Iranian linked groups.

We note that since 1948, Israel has been one of the strongest friends and allies of the United States. We further note that Israel is a stable, democratic country in a tumultuous region. We affirm that it is essential to the strategic interest of the United States to continue to offer security assistance and related support to Israel, which is vital as Israel confronts a number of threats, including those stemming from Iran and Iranian linked groups.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees, not later than February 1, 2025, outlining an overview of United States diplomatic, military, and intelligence support for Israel in support of Israeli efforts to secure the release of the hostages captured by Hamas in the wake of the October 7, 2023, attacks. The briefing shall include:

(1) An overview of United States military assistance to Israel in support of hostage recovery efforts;

(2) A description of assistance provided by the United States military to the Israeli military related to hostage rescue planning and recovery efforts;

(3) A description of intelligence sharing efforts in support of hostage release efforts;

(4) A description of the number of United States personnel embedded or regularly liaising with Israel's military, intelligence, and diplomatic officials and the types of activities in which such personnel are engaged;

(5) A description of how the United States is leveraging partner nations to assist with hostage release efforts; and

(6) A description of any other forms of assistance provided by the United States to Israel that are determined relevant to Israel's efforts to release the hostages.

Study and report on international security measures on the border between Gaza and Egypt

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1218) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to conduct a study on steps that Israel, Egypt, and the United States can take to enhance security measures on the border between Gaza and Egypt to ensure Hamas and other actors do not use tunnels or methods via the Mediterranean Sea to smuggle weapons and illicit goods.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, not later than March 1, 2025, outlining steps that Israel, Egypt, and the United States can take to enhance international security measures on the border between Gaza and Egypt to ensure Hamas and other actors do not use tunnels or methods via the Mediterranean Sea to smuggle weapons and illicit goods. The report shall include a detailed description and map indicating existing tunnels on the border between Gaza and Egypt.

Report on agreements made by the United States with the Taliban

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1220) that would require the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to provide a report on agreements made by the United States with the Taliban.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Briefing on Iranian support for non-state actors in North Africa

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1220B) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on Iranian support for non-state actors in North Africa.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than May 1, 2025, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on Iran's support for non-state actors in North Africa and any threats that such support may pose to U.S. allies, partners, and interests in the region.

Sense of Congress

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1221) that would express the sense of Congress regarding the Al-Tanf Garrison.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the requirement in this provision is addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Strategy to protect the Al-Tanf Garrison

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1222) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategy on the protection of United States and partner forces at Al-Tanf Garrison in Syria from the threat of Iran-backed militias, the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, the Russian Federation, and the Assad regime.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than June 1, 2025, that may include a classified annex, related to activities in Syria. The report should include the following elements:

(1) The number and description of attacks by Iran-backed militias at Al-Tanf Garrison and other United States

positions in Syria between October 7, 2023 and December 31, 2024;

(2) Department of Defense humanitarian assistance efforts including for internally displaced persons at the Al-Rukban camp;

(3) Russian violations of deconfliction agreements with the United States in Syria including Al-Tanf Garrison;

(4) Assad regime assistance, communication, and facilitation to ISIS;

(5) Assad regime assistance, communication, and facilitation to Iran-back militias in Syria;

(6) The number of jihadist prisoner releases and contributions of released prisoners to ISIS;

(7) Assad regime financing of ISIS, including the Syrian banking system in ISIS-held territory;

(8) Russian support for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Syria, including materiel or military transfers between Russia and the IRGC and efforts to evade United States sanctions;

(9) Russian military support for Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH), Harakat al-Nujaba (HAN) and Akram 'Abbas al-Kabi, and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS).

Report and strategy on the Assad regime's relationship with ISIS

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1223) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, to submit a report describing the Assad regime's cooperation, assistance, and association with the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the requirement in this provision is addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Strategy to counter the Assad regime's support and cooperation with Iran-backed militias in Syria

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1224) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop and submit a strategy on the use of its existing authorities to disrupt and degrade threats to the national security of the United States caused by Iran-backed militias in Syria.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than June 1, 2025, that may include a classified annex, on Iran-backed militias in Syria. The report should include the following elements:

(1) Existing and required authorities and resources to detect, monitor, and counter Iran-backed militias in Syria and protect United States servicemembers from Iran-backed militia attacks;

(2) The Assad regime's knowledge, facilitation, or tolerance of Iran-backed militia attacks against United States servicemembers after October 7, 2023;

(3) Freedom of movement of Iranian proxies, particularly between Abu Kamal and the deconfliction zone in eastern Syria, and the operational implications;

(4) Efforts and capabilities of Iran-backed militias to transport weapons and weapons systems from Syria into Lebanon;

(5) Iran's efforts and capabilities to sustain military threats on United States positions in Syria and maintain support to Hezbollah from Syria.

Report and strategy on Russia's support for foreign terrorist organizations in Syria

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1225) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop and submit a report and strategy to utilize existing authorities to counter the Russian Federation's support of foreign terrorist organizations and specially designated global terrorists in Syria.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the requirement in this provision is addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Appropriate congressional committees defined

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1227) that would define the appropriate congressional committees.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1234) that would establish a grant program to increase collaborative research between the United States and Israel on post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

As noted in the Joint Explanatory Statement to accompany the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263), the United States and Israel have cooperated in the field of medical research since 1978, to include post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sense of Congress on the importance of the Iron Dome system

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1236) that would express the sense of Congress on the Iron Dome system.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We strongly support the efforts of the Department of Defense to assist Israel in defending its population from rocket and missile attacks with the Iron Dome system.

Report on training of Ukrainian armed forces

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1238 and sec. 1240) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on U.S. efforts to train the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the United States as well as information on casualty figures in the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provisions.

We note the importance of Congress continuing to receive detailed information on the Ukrainian military's performance, including U.S. efforts to date to train the Ukrainian Armed Forces as well as casualty figures for the Russian Armed Forces and Ukrainian Armed Forces, respectively. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees, not later than May 1, 2025, a report on the Ukrainian Armed Forces that includes:

(1) A description of the training of Ukrainian Armed Forces by the United States since February 2022, including the approximate number of Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel trained and the locations of the training, with a focus on training conducted in the United States;

(2) A description of F-16 pilot and maintenance training provided in the United States to the Ukrainian Armed Forces since February 2022;

(3) The estimated total cost of training for the Ukrainian Armed Forces by the Department of Defense since February 2022, disaggregated by fiscal year; and

(4) An estimate of the casualties and major equipment losses of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and Russian Armed Forces since February 2022.

Sense of Congress on defense by NATO member states

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1239) that would express the sense of Congress regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1237).

The agreement does not include the House or Senate provisions.

We celebrate that in April 2024, the NATO alliance marked 75 years since its foundation. In those 75 years, NATO has remained the strongest and most successful military alliance in the world, founded on a commitment by its members to uphold the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. The success of NATO is critical to advancing United States national security objectives in Europe, the Indo-Pacific region, and around the world. The United States remains steadfast in its ironclad commitment to NATO as the foundation of transatlantic security and to upholding its obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty, including its commitment to collective defense under Article 5 of the Treaty.

We welcome the addition of Finland and Sweden as the 31st and 32nd members of the alliance, respectively. Both countries are security providers, and their inclusion has made the alliance stronger and enhanced collective security by increasing alliance capabilities, particularly in the Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe.

We urge NATO member countries that have not yet met the 2 percent defense spending pledge, as agreed to at the 2014 Wales Summit, to meet the spending target as expeditiously as possible and stress the importance of the affirmation at the 2023 Vilnius Summit that defense spending of at least 2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) be seen as a minimum investment. We also urge allies to continue to allocate at least 20 percent of their defense budgets on major equipment, including research and development.

We note that the regional plans, agreed to by all NATO member countries at the Vilnius Summit in 2023, provide important clarity on the forces, capabilities, and readiness levels needed to defend NATO. We also note that to implement these plans and meet allied capability targets, NATO members will need to spend more than 2 percent of GDP on their defense.

We urge allies to continue making efforts to address the challenges posed by the coercive policies of the People's Republic of China that undermine the interests, security, and shared values of the alliance.

We encourage the United States and fellow NATO allies to continue to expand cooperation efforts on cybersecurity issues to prevent adversaries and criminals from compromising critical systems and infrastructure.

We note that the unprovoked and illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has fundamentally altered the transatlantic security landscape and necessitates the full attention of the transatlantic alliance to ensure United States and allied interests and to enable Ukraine's self-defense.

We further affirm that the United States and fellow NATO allies and partners should continue efforts to deliver needed assistance to Ukraine as Ukraine fights against the illegal and unjust war of the Russian Federation and note that United States investments under the European Deterrence Initiative remain critically important to deter the Russian Federation from expanding its war of aggression beyond Ukraine.

We recognize that Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania continue to serve as model allies, including through their defense investments, modernization of key capabilities, and their steadfast assistance to Ukraine, among myriad other examples. We encourage the Defense Department to continue robust support for efforts to advance Baltic stability and security.

We remain concerned about the dynamic security situation in the Western Balkans and believe that military-to-military cooperation among the United States, the European Union, and fellow NATO allies to maintain peace and security in the Western Balkans is critically important.

We condemn the efforts of the Russian Federation to assert military, political, and economic dominance in the Black Sea. Such actions threaten the peace and stability of the littoral countries of the Black Sea, including NATO allies Bulgaria, Romania, and Türkiye, and should remain a focus area for the NATO alliance.

Report on allied contributions to the common defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1242) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on allied contributions to the common defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that elements of this provision related to the military capabilities of allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific and their contributions to mutual security objectives are addressed elsewhere in the report accompanying this Act. We also note that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) collects defense expenditure data from allies and publishes it on a regular basis. We further note that NATO also publishes information on NATO operations and missions in which the Armed Forces of the United States and NATO allies participate.

Sense of Congress on international defense exhibitions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1244) that would express the sense of Congress regarding international defense exhibitions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Court of Commerce of Paris ruled in June 2024 that the provisions that were imposed on Israeli companies for their participation in the Eurosatory Exhibition were illegal. Unfortunately, the Court acted too late for Israeli companies to participate.

Report and strategy for United States involvement in Ukraine

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1245) that would require the President to provide a report on a strategy for United States involvement in Ukraine.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on multilateral exercises in the eastern Mediterranean

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1246) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on multilateral exercises in the eastern Mediterranean.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on certain assistance to Ukraine

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1247) that would require a report on United States assistance to Ukraine.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees, not later than May 1, 2025, a report that includes:

(1) The total amount of remaining presidential drawdown authority pursuant to section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and a plan for using any remaining authority;

(2) The total amount of obligated, committed, and remaining funds for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI), and a plan for using any remaining USAI funding;

(3) The total amount of obligated, committed, and remaining funds for the replenishment of defense articles provided to Ukraine under presidential drawdown authority, and a plan for using any remaining replenishment funding; and

(4) A summary of USAI and replenishment contracts in support of the Ukraine response since January 1, 2022.

Military cooperation with Morocco

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1248) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on how the United States can improve its interoperability and cooperation with Morocco through the African Lion exercise to continue to address the growing threats in Africa.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We recognize the twentieth anniversary of the African Lion exercise hosted by Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal, and Ghana. African Lion is U.S. Africa Command's largest joint, all-domain, multi-component, multinational exercise. African Lion builds and maintains interoperability with African and North Atlantic Treaty Organization partners and improves international efforts to meet security challenges together.

We note the importance of the continuation of the African Lion exercise in future years, including efforts to build readiness to respond to crises and contingencies in Africa and address security challenges around the world. We also note the importance of the United States-Morocco security relationship

and believe that close cooperation between the United States and Morocco is critical to regional security.

Report on military activities of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China in the Arctic region

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1250) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on military activities of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China in the Arctic region.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that issues pertaining to the military activities in the Arctic region of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China are covered in annual Military Power Reports. We also note that the United States' response to these activities is outlined in the 2022 National Strategy for the Arctic Region and the 2024 Department of Defense Arctic strategy. We expect the Secretary of Defense to continue to cover such issues in future Military Power Reports, including any efforts by the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China to advance their respective or joint military and security strategies in the Arctic by:

(1) Exploiting Arctic science and technology cooperation, agreements, or research partnerships for military or intelligence purposes; or

(2) Co-opting, manipulating, or undermining Arctic-focused multilateral organizations, non-government organizations, or native or indigenous communities.

Report on cooperative efforts to stop unmanned aerial systems

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1251) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the status of cooperation between the United States and Israel on efforts to counter threats by Iran in the form of unmanned aerial systems.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a briefing, not later than March 1, 2025, to the congressional defense committees as to the status of cooperation between the United States and Israel on efforts to counter threats from the Government of Iran, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and any Iran-backed group operating in Iraq, Syria,

Lebanon, or Yemen specifically associated with the employment of unmanned aerial systems, including loitering munitions otherwise known as ``suicide'' or ``kamikaze'' drones.

Authority to build capability and capacity of foreign civilian medical support entities for resilience in crisis and conflict

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1203) that would amend subchapter IV of chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide non-lethal assistance, in the form of medical training and equipment, to allied and partner nation civilians to build that nation's medical support capability and capacity in preparation for crisis or conflict.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Plan to modernize and streamline information technology systems relating to end-use monitoring functions of Defense Security Cooperation Agency

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1212) that would require the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) to provide a plan to modernize and streamline the information technology infrastructure for end-use monitoring.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Director of DSCA to submit a report, not later than June 30, 2025, to the congressional defense committees on progress toward modernizing and streamlining the information technology systems, infrastructure, and software used to track defense article transfers and carry out DSCA end-use monitoring.

The report should include the following:

(1) A list of each information technology system used by the DSCA to track transfers of defense articles and carry out end-use monitoring;

(2) An assessment as to whether such software or information systems encounter ongoing coding issues, provide the required data to, or are interoperable with, the Security Cooperation Information Portal and the extent to which data is shared or received from other relevant Federal agencies;

(3) An assessment of whether the workforce is regularly entering data into such information technology systems

and metrics for measuring the frequency, quantity, and quality of data entry;

(4) An assessment regarding whether such systems are sufficiently user-friendly, including whether the systems rely on manual entry to carry out critical functions, such as populating and updating databases; if not, what efforts are in place to address usability issues;

(5) A description of each DSCA initiative to improve its information technology systems or software related to defense article tracking and end-use monitoring;

(6) An updated timeline and milestones for DSCA to update software and achieve a modern and streamlined ability to track defense article transfers and conduct end-use monitoring;

(7) Cost estimates for software development updates or procuring and operating and maintaining any such systems; and

(8) Any other matter that the Director considers relevant.

Defense cooperation with Georgia

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1214) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to conduct a review to assess whether continued defense cooperation with Georgia aligns with United States security interests.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that in May 2024, the Administration announced a comprehensive interagency review of all bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Georgia in response to concerns about the Government of Georgia's recent conduct. We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the results of the review for Department of Defense lines of effort and priorities not later than March 1, 2025.

Preservation of security and stability in northeast Syria

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1223) that would require the Secretary of Defense to certify that vetted Syrian groups and individuals are able to meet certain milestones in order to reduce the total number of United States Armed Forces serving in northeast Syria to fewer than 400 personnel.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Report on, and prohibition on use of funds to support, terrorist organizations in Iraq

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1224) that would require the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency to report to the congressional defense committees, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of the Treasury on the affiliates of the Badr Organization in Iraq and would also prohibit any funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act from being used to support the Badr Organization and its designated affiliates.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than June 1, 2025, that includes a determination of whether additional militant organizations have splintered from, or developed as offshoots of, the Badr Organization, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, Kata'ib Hezbollah, or any other organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) that receives funding from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The report should include:

- (1) A list of such militant organizations;
- (2) A description of the involvement of the offshoots in attacks on United States forces, partner and allied forces, in Iraq;
- (3) A description of the involvement of the offshoots in human rights violations; and
- (4) A description of the connections of the offshoots to foreign terrorist groups, including an assessment of the links between the Badr Organization and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Hezbollah, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, Kata'ib Hezbollah, or any other organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization.

Modification of annual report on military power of Iran

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1227) that would amend section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) to include an assessment of the support provided by Iran, and proxy groups affiliated with Iran, to non-state actors in the Maghreb region.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that the requirement in this provision is addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Modification of Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1232) that would amend section 1250 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) to provide an additional 2 years for the period of performance across fiscal years under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI). The provision would also waive section 2571 of title 10, United States Code, with respect to the use of reimbursable support from one component of the Department of Defense to perform work on behalf of another component in support of USAI.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Report on efforts to identify, disseminate, and implement lessons learned from war in Ukraine

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1235) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the efforts by the Department of Defense to identify, disseminate, and implement lessons learned from the war in Ukraine.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on Department of Defense efforts to identify, disseminate, and implement throughout the Department lessons learned from the war in Ukraine, not later than March 31, 2025. The report shall include the following:

(1) A description of the processes by which the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretaries of the military departments, and the heads of Department of Defense components are making efforts to identify, disseminate, and implement throughout the Department lessons learned from the war in Ukraine, including a description of any working group or other initiative established or tasked to focus on such efforts and the respective structure and focus area of any such group or initiative;

(2) A detailed summary of significant findings and recommendations resulting from such lessons-learned efforts; and

(3) An identification of the Department organizations with lead responsibility for the implementation of

each such significant recommendation, and a timeline with milestones for implementation.

Review, report, and plan regarding logistics networks in North America and Europe

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1236) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of the adequacy of the logistics networks in North America and Europe to support the operational and contingency plans of the U.S. European Command.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to commence a review of the adequacy of the logistics networks in North America and Europe for supporting the operational and contingency plans of the U.S. European Command not later than March 15, 2025. The review shall include:

(1) An identification of critical logistical nodes in North America and Europe necessary to support the operational and contingency plans of the U.S. European Command;

(2) An identification of additional critical logistical nodes that may be necessary to support such plans, including any access, basing, or overflight agreements with foreign partners that may be necessary; and

(3) An assessment of the capacity of the logistical nodes identified under paragraphs (1) and (2) to meet the time-phased force and deployment requirements of such plans, including the facilities and equipment necessary to support such requirements.

Based on the review, we further direct the Secretary to submit a report and plan to the congressional defense committees not later than June 15, 2025. The report shall include a summary of the results of the logistics adequacy review. The plan shall include timelines and assigned responsibilities for addressing any deficiencies in the logistics networks described in that subsection.

Report on defense industrial base cooperation with Ukraine and other allies and partners in Europe

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1238) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on efforts to enhance United States defense industrial base cooperation with Ukraine and other allied partners in Europe.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note the importance of defense industrial base cooperation between the United States, our allies, and Ukraine to deter further Russian aggression and increase production. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, to submit to the congressional defense committees, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a report on efforts to enhance United States defense industrial base cooperation with Ukraine and with other allies and partners in Europe. This report shall include:

(1) A detailed list of objectives for enhancing United States defense industrial base cooperation with Ukraine and other allies and partners in Europe, and timelines and metrics for evaluating the attainment of such objectives;

(2) An assessment of the current state of United States defense industrial base cooperation with Ukraine and other allies and partners in Europe, including the status of co-development, co-production, and technical data exchange efforts;

(3) A description of ongoing and planned initiatives, programs, and activities designed to strengthen United States defense industrial base cooperation with Ukraine and other allies and partners in Europe;

(4) A description of initiatives identified by the Ukraine Deal Team announced at the United States-Ukraine Defense Industrial Base conference on December 6, 2023;

(5) A description of any statutory, regulatory, or policy challenges that inhibit closer United States defense industrial base cooperation with Ukraine and other allies and partners in Europe; and

(6) Recommendations relating to United States defense industrial base cooperation.

Indo-Pacific multilateral security assistance initiatives

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1242) that would require the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to engage with appropriate officials from Japan, Australia, and the Republic of Korea for the purpose of establishing multilateral security assistance initiatives with the national security forces of mutual foreign partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Implementation plan to support establishment of regional contingency stockpile for Taiwan

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1252) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to submit a multiyear implementation plan for Department of Defense activities necessary to support the establishment of a regional contingency stockpile for Taiwan pursuant to section 5503(b) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that the President has been authorized to establish a regional contingency stockpile for Taiwan pursuant to section 5503(b) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 and that the Department of Defense would be expected to perform certain functions if that authority is exercised. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide, not later than March 31, 2025, to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, a report on Department of Defense activities that would be necessary to support the potential establishment of such a regional contingency stockpile. The report should include: (1) A description of any international agreement that would be required to enable the establishment of such a stockpile; (2) A list of Department of Defense equipment and supplies, including the estimated quantities of such equipment and supplies, that would be required to establish such a stockpile; (3) An identification of any supplemental authorities that would be necessary for the Department of Defense to support the establishment of such a stockpile; (4) The identification of any other Department of Defense resources that would be necessary to establish such a stockpile; and (5) Any other matter the Secretary of Defense considers relevant.

Assessment of use of Department of Defense facilities in Guam as multinational training locations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1255) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of using existing Department of Defense facilities in Guam to host training detachments of the military forces of foreign partner countries on a permanent or rotational basis.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of using existing Department of Defense facilities in Guam to host training detachments of the military forces of foreign partner countries on a permanent or rotational basis. The required assessment shall include the following:

(1) A description of the manner in which using existing Department of Defense facilities in Guam to host training detachments of the military forces of foreign partner countries on a permanent or rotational basis may support the objectives of the National Defense Strategy;

(2) A description of the benefits of hosting such detachments at such facilities, including opportunities to conduct bilateral and multilateral exercises;

(3) An identification of the facilities improvements necessary to support such detachments at such facilities on a permanent or rotational basis, including improvements necessary for operational, support, and quality-of-life purposes;

(4) An identification of any memorandum of understanding or other agreement necessary to enable the hosting of such detachments at such facilities on a permanent or rotational basis;

(5) A description of any challenges to hosting such detachments at such facilities on a permanent or rotational basis, including any counterintelligence or other consideration and potential actions to mitigate such challenges; and

(6) Any other matter the Secretary considers relevant.

Report on costs of meeting certain requirements of foreign partners relating to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1256) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on requirements relating to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry imposed by the government of a foreign partner on personnel and equipment of the U.S. Armed Forces in the area of operations of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on requirements

relating to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry imposed by the government of a foreign partner or U.S. state or territory, on personnel and equipment of the U.S. Armed Forces in the area of operations of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. At a minimum, the required report shall include:

(1) A description of each requirement relating to agriculture, fisheries, or forestry imposed by the government of a foreign partner or U.S. state or territory on personnel and equipment of the U.S. Armed Forces in the area of operations of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, including an identification of the applicable foreign partner.

(2) An estimate of the annual cost to the Department of Defense associated with meeting such requirements, including the number of days of labor by Department of Defense officials associated with meeting such requirement;

(3) An assessment of the readiness cost of no longer being able to operate or train at the given location;

(4) An estimate of the strategic impact of not being able to use the port, installation, or training facility due to a lack of compliance with the requirements delineated in (1);

(5) A description of efforts to mitigate such costs, including, but not limited to, forward deployment of equipment and consultations with applicable foreign partners, states, or territories; and

(6) Any other matter the Secretary considers relevant.

The required report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Returning civic action teams to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1257) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the activities of civic action teams in the Republic of Palau under the Palau Compact of Free Association Act (Public Law 99-658) and the feasibility and advisability of restoring the presence of civic action teams in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, as authorized under the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239) and the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We support the restoration of civic action teams in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of

Micronesia, if deemed feasible and advisable by the Secretary of Defense.

Annual report on military capabilities of allies and partners in Indo-Pacific region

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1259) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report in each of the next 5 years regarding the military capabilities of allies and partners of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than July 1, 2025, to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the defense capabilities of allies and partners of the United States located in the Indo-Pacific region, including treaty allies of the United States, countries that host a significant U.S. military presence, and any other foreign partner with which the United States maintains a significant defense relationship.

The report shall include the following:

(1) A description of the size, posture, capabilities, and readiness of the defense forces of the ally or partner.

(2) A description of significant defense objectives and activities of the ally or partner.

(3) An assessment of:

(a) the defense-related contributions of the ally or partner to the achievement of mutual defense objectives; and

(b) the ability of the ally or partner to participate in bilateral or multilateral military or naval operations with the U.S. Armed Forces; and

(4) A description of any other security development relating to the defense capabilities of the ally or partner that the Secretary of Defense considers to be relevant to U.S. national security.

The required report may be submitted in classified form with an unclassified summary.

Review, report, and plan on adequacy of logistics network in Indo-Pacific region

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1260) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of the adequacy of the logistics network in the

Indo-Pacific region for supporting the operational and contingency plans of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The provision would also require the Secretary to provide a plan to the congressional defense committees that includes timelines and assigned responsibilities for addressing any deficiencies in the logistics network identified during the review.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to commence a review of the adequacy of the logistics network in the Indo-Pacific region for supporting the operational and contingency plans of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. At a minimum, the review shall include:

(1) An identification of critical logistical nodes in the Indo-Pacific region necessary to support the operational and contingency plans of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command;

(2) An identification of additional critical logistical nodes that may be necessary to support such plans, including any access, basing, and overflight agreements with foreign partners that may be necessary; and

(3) An assessment of the capacity of the logistical nodes identified under paragraphs (1) and (2) to meet the time-phased force and deployment requirements of such operational and contingency plans, including the facilities, equipment, infrastructure other than Department of Defense infrastructure (including airports, seaports, railways, and roads), and workforce necessary to support such requirements.

Furthermore, we direct the Secretary, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit a report to the congressional defense committees that includes detailed findings from the required review and a plan, including timelines and assigned responsibilities, for addressing any identified deficiencies of the logistics network in the Indo-Pacific region necessary to support the operational and contingency plans of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The required report and plan may be submitted in classified form.

Fielding of a common operating picture with Taiwan

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1260) that would require the Secretary of Defense to seek to engage with appropriate officials of Taiwan for the purpose of fielding capabilities to provide to the military forces of Taiwan and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command a common operating picture.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We support the fielding of capabilities to provide to the military forces of Taiwan and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command with a common operating picture, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.).

Report on cooperation between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1271) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a one-time report regarding the military cooperation between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, and the implications of such cooperation for the national security interests of the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees, not later than July 1, 2025, a report assessing defense cooperation among the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The report shall include:

(1) A description of the changes in the nature of the defense relationships among the four countries since February 1, 2022;

(2) A review of military cooperation among the four countries, including military exercises, technical cooperation and technology sharing, weapons sales or donations, military-to-military dialogues, and military or technical lessons learned as a result of the Russian war in Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East;

(3) An assessment of the extent to which specific military cooperation among the four countries may complicate routine U.S. operations;

(4) A review of supply chain cooperation among the four countries in furtherance of their national security objectives;

(5) A review of any cooperation among the four countries regarding nuclear technology; and

(6) An assessment of the likely trajectories of defense cooperation among the four countries through 2026.

Report on Department of Defense role in supporting international legal operations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1284) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on Department of Defense support for whole-of-government efforts to identify and expose malign actors' international legal operations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We are concerned that foreign interpretations or applications of law that deliberately challenge the rules-based international order, such as those of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, may directly or indirectly undermine the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners.

Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to the congressional defense committees assessing the nature and effect of any foreign interpretation or application of law that deliberately challenges the rules-based international order and that materially undermines the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners.

The briefing should include a description of the methodology that the Department of Defense uses to determine whether:

(1) Foreign interpretations or applications of law that deliberately challenge the rules-based international order are directly or indirectly counter to the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners;

(2) The effects of any such foreign interpretations or applications of law materially undermine the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners; and

(3) Challenges posed by any such foreign interpretations or applications of law that materially undermine the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners can be mitigated through Department of Defense support for whole-of-government efforts.

Report and briefing on security implications of water scarcity and food security for United States Central Command

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1285) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report and provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees on the feasibility and advisability of including water scarcity and food security in the risk

assessments and operational plans for the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Report and briefing on Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1287) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit a report and provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees on the operational value of Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, taking into account its relationship with Hamas and other terrorist organizations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report and provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees, not later than June 1, 2025, on the operational value of the Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, taking into consideration the presence of Hamas and other United States-designated terrorist organizations in Qatar. The report and briefing shall include:

- (1) Whether the presence of Hamas and other United States-designated terrorist organizations in Qatar undermines the national security interests of the United States;
- (2) The operational value of the Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar;
- (3) The effect on United States Air Force operations in the Middle East if the United States were to redeploy members of the United States Air Force from Al-Udeid Air Base; and
- (4) The resources that would be required to redeploy members of the United States Air Force from Al-Udeid Air Base.

Independent assessment of technology release and foreign disclosure reform initiative

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1290) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an independent assessment of the Department of Defense technology release and foreign disclosure reform initiative required by section 918 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an independent assessment of the Department of Defense's

technology release and foreign disclosure reform initiative required by section 918(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31). The Comptroller General shall submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the results of this assessment not later than 1 year after the Department submits the report required under paragraph (1) of section 918(d).

Modification of Regional Centers for Security Studies to provide authority specific to Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6202) that would modify section 342(i) of title 10, United States Code, to include the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies as a regional center for security studies.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than March 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, on:

(1) The number and percentage of attendees from developing countries and, separately, the number and percentage of attendees from non-developing countries, at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies and the other Regional Centers authorized by section 342 of title 10, United States Code;

(2) Any recommendations for changes to policy or guidance regarding waiving of non-developing country costs or waiving other reimbursable costs of conferences, seminars, courses of instruction, or similar educational activities at the Centers;

(3) The total amount of costs that would be waived should recommended changes to policy or guidance for the Centers be implemented, disaggregated by country; and

(4) Any other information the Secretary deems appropriate.

For the purpose of the required briefing, the terms "developing country" and "non-developing country" shall have the meaning prescribed under applicable provisions of chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code.

Extension and modification of lend-lease authority to Ukraine

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6231) that

would extend the lend-lease authority to Ukraine as well as require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report that includes a description of the defense articles loaned or leased to the Government of Ukraine, or to the government of an Eastern European country impacted by the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, under such authority and a strategy and timeline for recovery and return of such defense articles.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Prohibition on use of funds for Wuhan Institute of Virology or EcoHealth Alliance

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6243) that would prohibit Department of Defense funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. and any of its subsidiaries.

The House bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1707).

The agreement does not include either provision.

We note that other provisions regarding this matter are contained elsewhere in this Act.

**TITLE XIII—OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO
FOREIGN NATIONS**

**SUBTITLE A—MATTERS RELATING TO EUROPE AND
RUSSIA**

*Sec. 1301 - Modifications to North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Special Operations Headquarters*

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1234) that would amend section 2350r of title 10, United States Code, to update the name of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Special Operations Headquarters to the NATO Allied Special Operations Forces Command (SOFCOM), in accordance with the NATO decision to modify the title and would also increase the funding authorized in support of SOFCOM from \$50.0 million to \$55.0 million.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1302 - Extension and modification of training for Eastern European national security forces in the course of multilateral exercises

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1233) that would amend section 1251 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) to extend the authority to train Eastern European national security forces in the course of multilateral exercises through December 31, 2027, and would also modify the authority to include the Republic of Cyprus among the list of countries eligible to receive such training.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1303 - Extension of prohibition on availability of funds relating to sovereignty of the Russian Federation over internationally recognized territory of Ukraine

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1231) that would amend section 1245(a) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-236) to extend the prohibition of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2025 from being obligated or expended to implement any activity that recognizes the sovereignty of the Russian Federation over the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1304 - Prohibition on New START Treaty information sharing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1231) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from providing notifications, biannual data exchange, inspection activities, or telemetric activities to the Russian Federation in relation to the New START Treaty, but provide a waiver on certain conditions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE B—MATTERS RELATING TO THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Sec. 1311 - Sense of Congress on defense alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1089, 1311, and 1312) that would express the senses of Congress regarding cooperation with the Philippines on maritime security, and South Korea and Taiwan defense relations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1263) that would express the sense of Congress regarding the importance of alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1312 - Modification of Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Initiative

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1245) that would authorize support under the Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Initiative to foreign non-military governmental organizations that have maritime security missions among their functional responsibilities when assistance is necessary to enable the integration of the activities of governmental organizations with the national military or other security forces of a foreign partner.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1313 - Extension and modification of Pacific Deterrence Initiative

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1301) that would extend the authority for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI) and extend the requirements for reports and plans under the initiative.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1243).

The agreement includes the House provision.

The conferees strongly support PDI as means to prioritize Department of Defense efforts in support of enhancing U.S. deterrence and defense posture, reassuring allies and partners, and increasing readiness and capability in the Indo-Pacific region, primarily west of the International Date Line. We direct that, in future years, the PDI and the independent assessment of the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, required by section 1251 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense

Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), as amended, fully account for the requirements of U.S. Forces-Korea and U.S. Forces-Japan.

The budgetary display below captures investments included in this Act that support the objectives of the PDI.

Sec. 1314 - Indo-Pacific extended deterrence education pilot program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1247) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, using the authorities provided in chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code, and other applicable statutory authorities available to the Secretary, to establish a pilot program, including an international defense personnel exchange program, to support the education of covered personnel of Australia, Japan, or the Republic of Korea in matters related to nuclear deterrence, nuclear strategy, nuclear defense strategy, or other related matters.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

SUBTITLE C—MATTERS RELATING TO TAIWAN

Sec. 1321 - Modification of reporting requirement for transfer of defense articles and defense services to Taiwan

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1251) that would amend paragraph (3) of section 1259A(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) to clarify that the required report may be submitted in classified form.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1322 - Establishment of program between the United States and Taiwan for military trauma care

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1246) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to seek to engage with appropriate officials of Taiwan for the purpose of establishing a joint program on military trauma care and research consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to establish a joint program on military trauma care with appropriate personnel of the military forces of Taiwan, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act.

Sec. 1323 - Taiwan security cooperation initiative

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1241) that would authorize the Indo-Pacific Security Assistance Initiative, under which the Secretary of Defense would be authorized to provide the foreign military and national security forces and ministries of defense, or security agencies serving a similar defense function, of foreign partners in the Indo-Pacific, and regional organizations with security missions in the Indo-Pacific region, with security assistance utilizing the authorities provided in chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code, and other applicable statutory authorities available to the Secretary.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide the military, central government security forces, and central government security agencies of Taiwan and civilian central governmental entities of Taiwan that have among their functional responsibilities the support of military and central government security forces with appropriate assistance to enable Taiwan to maintain sufficient self-defense capabilities consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8).

Sec. 1324 - Sense of Congress regarding invitation to Taiwan to the Rim of the Pacific exercise

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1318) that would require the Secretary of Defense to invite the naval forces of Taiwan to any Rim of the Pacific Exercise that is to take place following the date of enactment of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would express the sense of Congress that the naval forces of Taiwan may be invited to participate in the Rim of the Pacific exercise, as appropriate, conducted in 2025.

SUBTITLE D—COORDINATING AUKUS ENGAGEMENT WITH JAPAN

Sec. 1331 - Definitions

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6299D) that

would define certain terms related to the Australia, United Kingdom, United States partnership.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1332 - Sense of Congress

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6299E) that would express the sense of Congress regarding the Australia, United Kingdom, and United States partnership and Japan.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1333 - Engagement with Japan on AUKUS Pillar Two Cooperation

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6299F) that would require the State Australia, United Kingdom, United States (AUKUS) Coordinator to jointly engage directly with the relevant stakeholders in the Government of Japan on AUKUS Pillar Two.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1334 - Assessment of Potential for Cooperation with Japan on AUKUS Pillar Two

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6299G) that would require the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, to submit a report assessing the potential for cooperation with Japan on Pillar Two of the Australia, United Kingdom, and United States partnership.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

SUBTITLE E—MATTERS RELATING TO EAST ASIA

Sec. 1341 - Extension and modification of authority to transfer funds for Bien Hoa dioxin cleanup

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1244) that would extend the authority of the Secretary of

Defense to transfer funds to the Secretary of State for the Bien Hoa dioxin cleanup in Vietnam through fiscal year 2025 and increase the amount that can be transferred to \$30.0 million per year.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1342 - Modification of cooperative program with Vietnam to account for Vietnamese personnel missing in action

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1264) that would amend section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) to make various modifications to a cooperative program with Vietnam to account for Vietnamese personnel missing in action, and to extend the program to 2031.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1343 - Plan for establishment of a joint force headquarters in Japan

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1248) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide the congressional defense committees with a plan for the establishment of joint force headquarters subordinate to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in Japan, Australia, and any other locations the Secretary determines necessary.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a plan to reconstitute U.S. Forces Japan as a joint force headquarters consistent with the Joint Statement of the Security Consultative Committee released on July 28, 2024.

Sec. 1344 - Plan for Department of Defense activities to strengthen United States extended deterrence commitments to the Republic of Korea

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1249) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to submit a plan to strengthen United States extended deterrence commitments to the Republic of Korea in each of the next 5 years.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1345 - Plan and annual report relating to trilateral defense cooperation with Japan and the Republic of Korea

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1250) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to submit a plan for advancing trilateral security cooperation among the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea and require annual updates on such trilateral security cooperation activities through 2029.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1346 - Modification of public reporting of Chinese military companies operating in the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1302) that would require a printed justification in the Federal Register to accompany the annual listing decisions in accordance with section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283).

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1303) that would modify the requirement for the Department of Defense to maintain a Chinese military company list in accordance with Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283).

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1307) that would require the Secretary of Defense to make the list required under section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to be in both English and in Mandarin Chinese.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1258) that would amend section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) to clarify the public reporting requirements regarding Chinese military companies operating in the United States.

The agreement includes consolidation of the House provisions, along with additional clarifying amendments.

Sec. 1347 - Strategy to address malign activities by the People's Liberation Army

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1254) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a transregional strategy for exposing and, as appropriate, countering malign activities by the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a transregional, multi-functional, and multi-domain strategy to coordinate activities among combatant commands for identifying and, if necessary and appropriate, addressing malign activities by the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China. The provision would also require the Secretary to designate, within each combatant command (other than the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command), an official liaison for coordinated transregional, multi-functional, and multi-domain efforts to address malign activities by the People's Liberation Army.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Prohibition on use of funds to promote a "one country, two systems" solution for Taiwan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1305) that would prohibit the use of funds to be used to promote a "one country, two systems" solution for Taiwan.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Modification of Prohibition on Participation of the People's Republic of China in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Naval Exercises

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1306) that would modify the prohibition on participation of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Rim of the Pacific naval exercises. The House bill also contained a provision (sec. 1308) that would modify the prohibition on participation of the PRC in Rim of the Pacific naval exercises by adding the exception of the PRC holding an internationally-recognized, free and fair presidential election.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provisions.

Consideration of Taiwan for enhanced defense industrial base cooperation

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1253) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to take measures to ensure that Taiwan is appropriately considered, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8), for enhanced defense industrial base cooperation activities aligned with the United States National Defense Industrial Strategy to expand global defense production, increase supply chain security and resilience, and meet the defense needs of Taiwan.

The House bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1313).

The agreement does not include these provisions.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of entering into one or more defense industrial agreements with Taiwan. In conducting the study, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall consult with representatives of Taiwan and industry, as appropriate. At a minimum, the study shall:

(1) Evaluate the strategic benefits and implications of entering into a defense industrial agreement with Taiwan, including with respect to:

(a) long-term supply chain security and resilience;

(b) mutual supply of defense goods and services;

(c) supply of regional maintenance, repair, and overhaul capabilities and any other support capability the Secretary considers appropriate; and

(d) the promotion of interoperability;

(2) Account for the legal, economic, and defense policy aspects of a closer defense procurement partnership between the United States and Taiwan;

(3) Identify defense capabilities developed and produced in Taiwan that:

(a) may benefit from defense industrial agreements between the United States and Taiwan; and

(b) may require expedited technology release and disclosure for components produced in the United States; and

(4) Identify defense capabilities developed in the United States with respect to which co-production in Taiwan may support the resilience of the defense industrial base of Taiwan.

Furthermore, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report with a classified annex on the results of the study, including lists of the defense capabilities identified under elements (c) and (d).

Designation of official responsible for coordination of department of defense efforts to monitor People's Liberation Army overseas basing efforts

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1315) that would require the Secretary of Defense to designate an official within the Department of Defense to be responsible for coordination of Department efforts to monitor the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) overseas basing efforts.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees that, at a minimum, identifies the Department of Defense official or officials responsible for:

- (1) Monitoring the PLA's network of overseas military bases and its global pursuit of military access agreements;
- (2) Representing the Department of Defense in the interagency process on such matters; and
- (3) Consulting regularly with the congressional defense committees to keep such committees fully informed on all matters relating to such responsibilities.

Report on feasibility of developing and deploying asymmetric naval assets in defense of Taiwan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1319) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to submit a report on the feasibility of developing and deploying asymmetric naval assets in Taiwan.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies as appropriate, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on:

(1) The feasibility of developing and deploying asymmetric naval assets for a potential defense of Taiwan;

(2) Whether Taiwan's ability to deter a maritime invasion by the People's Republic of China would be enhanced by deployment of small, high-speed, long-range (200 or more nautical miles), extreme-weather-capable, reduced-radar-signature boats with the capacity for launching missiles, addressing subsurface threats or delivering and recovering small troop units to coastal and littoral locations in the vicinity of the Taiwan Strait, and, if so, in what number and in what configurations;

(3) Whether existing and planned Tuo Chiang class catamaran-hulled corvettes are naval assets capable of fully meeting the needs of an effective asymmetric naval defense strategy; and

(4) The vulnerability of Taiwan's existing larger-platform surface naval fleet, including Keelung-class destroyers, Cheung Kung-class frigates, Chi Yang-class frigates, and Kang Ding-class frigates.

Report on impact of the malign influence of China and Russia

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1320) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as necessary, to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that includes a detailed assessment of the impact of the malign influence of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on the national security and economic interests of the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure that future iterations of the Department of Defense's annual report on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China required by section 1202 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65) and the Russia Military Power Report produced by the Defense

Intelligence Agency include assessments of the impact of the malign influence of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, respectively, in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on the national security and economic interests of the United States.

Report on support for Taiwan's military preparedness

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1321) that would require the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Intelligence, to submit a report on deterrence in the Taiwan Strait.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that annual reports required by the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act in section 3351(f) of title 22, United States Code, address matters related to the defense of Taiwan, including an assessment of the commitment of Taiwan to implement a strategy that will deter and, if necessary, defeat military aggression by the People's Republic of China.

TITLE XIV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

SUBTITLE A—MILITARY PROGRAMS

Sec. 1401 - Working capital funds

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1401) that would authorize appropriations for the defense working capital funds at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1401).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 1402 - Chemical agents and munitions destruction, defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1402) that would authorize appropriations for Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1402).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would strike subsection (b)(2), at the request of the Department of Defense.

Sec. 1403 - Drug interdiction and counter-drug activities, defense-wide

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1403) that would authorize appropriations for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1403).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 1404 - Defense Inspector General

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1404) that would authorize appropriations for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1404).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 1405 - Defense Health Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1405) that would authorize appropriations for the Defense Health Program at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 1405).

The agreement includes this provision.

SUBTITLE B—NATIONAL DEFENSE STOCKPILE

Sec. 1411 - Restoring the National Defense Stockpile

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 1411 and sec. 1412) that would direct the National Defense Stockpile Manager to procure strategic and critical materials from domestic sources to the maximum extent practicable.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1411).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require a plan to fully fund existing National Defense Stockpile requirements.

We expect the Secretary of Defense to adhere to the requirements codified in 50 U.S.C. 98h-6 regarding purchasing, or making a commitment to purchase, strategic and critical materials of domestic origin when such materials are needed for the stockpile.

Sec. 1412 - Consultations with respect to environmental review of certain projects relating to availability of strategic and critical materials for acquisition for National Defense Stockpile

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1413) that would require the Secretary of Defense to consult with the head of any cooperating agency or participating agency responsible for the environmental review for the project in the case of a covered project that will result in an increase in the availability of strategic and critical materials for acquisition for the National Defense Stockpile.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1413).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 1421 - Extension of authorities for funding and management of Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for Captain James A. Lovell Health Care Center, Illinois

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1421) that would amend section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 11-84) to extend the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund from September 30, 2024, to September 30, 2025. The provision would also the transfer of \$162.5 million to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for operations of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained similar provisions (sec. 741 and sec. 1423).

The agreement include the House provision with an amendment that would extend the Joint Department of Defense-

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund to September 30, 2026.

Sec. 1422 - Eligibility of Space Force officers for membership on Armed Forces Retirement Home Advisory Council

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1422) that would amend section 1502 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510) to add the Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Human Capital and the Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force as members of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Advisory Council.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1421).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1423 - Armed Forces Retirement Home: availability of licensed practitioners

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1422) that would amend section 1513 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510) to require the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) to have appropriate licensed independent health care practitioners available during the daily business hours of the facility and on-call at other times. The provision would also authorize the Secretary of Defense to enter into agreements to facilitate payments from the Department of Defense (DOD) to the AFRH for health care services provided to covered DOD beneficiaries at AFRH facilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would amend section 1513 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510) to require the AFRH to have appropriate licensed practitioners available during the daily business hours of the facility and on-call at other times.

We understand there are challenges with the financial stability of the AFRH. The AFRH provides healthcare services to its residents, but is not reimbursed for providing this care by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or Medicare.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, no later than April 1, 2025, on the legal and policy issues related to the inability to provide reimbursement for AFRH resident healthcare, including the application of section 1113 of title 10, United States Code. The briefing shall

include any regulatory, policy, or statutory changes necessary to authorize reimbursement to the AFRH for providing this care.

Sec. 1424 - Authorization of appropriations for Armed Forces Retirement Home

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1423) that would authorize an appropriation of \$69.5 million from the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund for fiscal year 2025 for the operation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1424).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would authorize an appropriation of \$100.5 million from the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund for fiscal year 2025 for the operation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Storage of strategic and critical materials in National Defense Stockpile

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1412) that would amend the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98 et seq.) to authorize the Stockpile Manager to enter into leases for the storage of strategic and critical materials in the National Defense Stockpile.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We understand that the authority to enter into leases already exists in 50 U.S.C. 98e and is more expansive.

TITLE XV—CYBERSPACE-RELATED MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—CYBER OPERATIONS

Sec. 1501 - Modification of prohibition on purchase of cyber data products or services other than through the program management office for Department of Defense-wide procurement of cyber data products and services

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1625) that would amend section 1521(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) by adding an additional exemption to the prohibition of this section.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1502 - Department of Defense Information Network subordinate unified command

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1503) that would require the Secretary of Defense to designate the Joint Force Headquarters-Department of Defense Information Network as a subordinate unified command under the United States Cyber Command.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1602).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1503 - Establishment of the Department of Defense Hackathon program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1502) that would require the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of Defense, in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense, to establish a program to be known as the Department of Defense Hackathon Program, under which the commanders of combatant commands and the Secretaries of the military departments are required to carry out not fewer than four Hackathons each year.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1504 - Support for cyber threat tabletop exercise program with the defense industrial base

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1604) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy, in consultation and coordination with the Commander of United States Cyber Command, the Commander of United States Northern Command, the Commander of the Army Interagency Training and Education Center, and such other individuals as the Assistant Secretary considers appropriate, to

develop tabletop exercise packages oriented towards training stakeholders to prepare the homeland for adversary cyber-attacks precipitating or during a time of conflict or war.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require that the exercise program to be established include both a series of tabletop exercises to be conducted by the Department of Defense, as well as tabletop exercise packages that can be provided to defense industrial base organizations that they could run themselves, as well as some clarification on participants and their roles in this exercise program.

Sec. 1505 - Accounting of cloud computing capabilities of the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1504) that would require the Chief Information Office of the Department, in coordination with the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department, to provide to the congressional defense committees a report listing the current and planned cloud elements of the Department, as well as a roadmap for future activities and related contracting details.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

SUBTITLE B—CYBERSECURITY

Sec. 1511 - Termination of reporting requirement for cross domain incidents and exemptions to policies for information technology

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1721) that would amend section 1727 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) by adding a new subsection.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1512 - Information technology programs of the National Background Investigation Service

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1619) that would authorize the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in consultation with the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing Performance Accountability Council Principals, to adjust the assignment of milestone decision authority or program management for the National Background Investigation Services.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1513 - Guidance for application of zero trust strategy to Internet of Things hardware used in military operations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1614) that would require the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to develop guidance for how the Department of Defense zero trust strategy applies to Internet of Military Things hardware, including human-wearable devices, sensors, and other smart technology; and the role identity, credential, and access management technologies serve in enforcing such a zero trust strategy.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1514 - Management and cybersecurity of multi-cloud environments

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1612) that would require the Secretary of Defense acting through the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense, to develop a strategy for the management and cybersecurity of the Joint Warfighting Cloud Capability and other multi-cloud environments, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1515 - Protective measures for mobile devices within the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1511) that would require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a detailed evaluation of the cybersecurity products and services for mobile

devices to identify products and services that may improve the cybersecurity of mobile devices used by the Department of Defense, including mitigating the risk to the Department of Defense from cyber attacks against mobile devices.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1622).

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE C—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DATA MANAGEMENT

Sec. 1521 - Usability of antiquated and proprietary data formats for modern operations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1521) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to develop a strategy for the Department of Defense, including each of the military departments, to implement and use modern data formats as the primary method of electronic communication for command and control activities and for weapon systems, including sensors associated with such weapon systems; and which accounts for specific needs of each military department with respect to such implementation and use of modern data formats; and an associated five-year roadmap for implementation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

We note that the diversity, age and complexity of Department of Defense (DOD) information technology (IT) systems poses a unique challenge to creating a truly integrated, interoperable and efficient information network capable of operating at speeds and with the adaptability to outpace and out-decide our adversaries. The length of time many key DOD information technology systems have remained in use, as well the centrality of many of these systems around which new capabilities have to be added and upgraded, is a unique engineering challenge. Just as an example, the reliance on outmoded and antiquated data formats such as Extensible Markup Language, Variable Message Format, Tactical Data Links, or Tactical Digital Information Links, means that many systems cannot take full advantage of technological capabilities of new artificial intelligence, data processing, or bandwidth efficient components, effectively self-limiting performance gains for our

warfighters. We believe a better understanding of where DOD IT systems are reliant on such formats and a concerted plan to identify and address the risks from such formats is a critical first step to make a truly integrated and effective data fabric for the Department.

Sec. 1522 - Modernization of the Department of Defense's Authorization to Operate processes

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1522) that would require the Department of Defense to improve and streamline the processes regarding the ``Authority to Operate'' for information technology.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1621).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1523 - Update of biometric policy of Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1613) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security to update the biometric policy of the Department of Defense, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment that would require this policy to be updated not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBTITLE D—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Sec. 1531 - Artificial Intelligence Human Factors Integration Initiative

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1616) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of Defense, to establish an initiative to improve the human usability of artificial intelligence systems and artificial intelligence-derived information through the application of cognitive ergonomics techniques; and ensure design tools and metrics are available for programs to ensure

human factors considerations are included for artificial intelligence systems adopted by the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1532 - Advanced computing infrastructure to enable advanced artificial intelligence capabilities

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5234) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish an advanced computing infrastructure program within the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1533 - Cost budgeting for artificial intelligence data

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1620) that would require the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer (CDAO) of the Department of Defense, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, to develop a plan to ensure the budgeting process for programs containing artificial intelligence components includes estimates for the types of data, and estimated costs for acquisition and sustainment of such data required to train, maintain, or improve the artificial intelligence contained within such programs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1534 - Evaluation of Federated Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Weapon Systems Center of Excellence

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5231) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a center of excellence to support the development and maturation of artificial intelligence-enabled weapon systems.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

SUBTITLE E—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 1541 - Oversight and reporting on the Mission Partner Environment and associated activities within the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1537) that would establish an improved oversight mechanism for the Department of Defense activities related to the Mission Partner Environment.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1617).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1542 - Extension of certification requirement regarding contracting for military recruiting

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1531) that would amend section 1555 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to modify the certification requirements to the Secretary of Defense and strike the sunset clause.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment to extend section 1555 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 for an additional year.

Sec. 1543 - Prohibition on disestablishment or merger of officer career paths within the Cyber Branch of the United States Army

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1535) that would prohibit disestablishment or merger of officer career paths within the Cyber Branch of the United States Army.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of the Army to provide notice to Congress prior to taking any action to disestablish or merge the Cyber Warfare and Cyber Electromagnetic Warfare officer career paths within the Cyber Branch of the Army.

Sec. 1544 - Independent assessment of cyber organizational models

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1536) that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct an evaluation regarding the advisability of either establishing a separate Armed Force in the Department of Defense dedicated to operations in the cyber domain or refining and further evolving the current organizational approach for United States Cyber Command.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1606).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

We note that finding the optimal structure for cyber operations continues to be a work in progress. We also recognize that such evolution is even more difficult when those forces are fully engaged in a demanding training environment, competition with the private sector for a limited workforce pool, and complicated by a constant, demanding and high intensity operational tempo. We believe that an independent, outside examination of these challenge may provide valuable insights to inform decision-makers on future force design concepts.

In executing the study required by the section, we encourage the National Academies to leverage fully the findings from previous relevant assessments, analyses, and studies conducted by the Secretary of Defense, the Comptroller General of the United States, or other entities, as well as lessons learned from the creation of Space Force, and from the establishment of foreign partner cyber organizations. We also encourage them to seek views and perspectives of members of the Armed Forces in the Department of Defense, across grades and specialties in cyber, to better understand the historical performance and efficacy of the Armed Forces in the Department of Defense in devising and implementing recruitment and retention policies in the cyber field.

We observe that the study required will be a major challenge for participants within the National Academies, some of whom may not have deep operational experience in military cyber missions. Scoping the study to focus on key questions will be critical, and we recognize that the participants should have the flexibility to pursue topics based on their collective judgement. While this list is not intended to be exhaustive or directive, we do hope it will provide some loose vectoring that will help them as they develop their study approach.

As part of this study, we encourage the National Academies panel to examine some or all of the following issues, including:

- (1) What is the optimal force size of qualified cyber professionals to satisfy existing and projected

requirements of the Department of Defense, and how are these variables most likely to change?

(2) Does the Department have an adequate delineation of which fields are cyber-relevant, and how might this be most likely to change?

(3) Is the Department's current understanding and definition of cyber operations adequate to future challenges and opportunities?

(4) What options exist to improve training requirements, outputs, and programs in support of cyberspace operations?

(5) How could the Department improve recruiting and retention of qualified officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces in the Department of Defense in cyberspace operations and related and supporting fields?

(6) How might the Department better utilize reserve component forces in support of cyberspace operations?

(7) What approaches could improve force readiness?

(8) How should the Department structure itself for acquisition and provision of cyber capabilities in support of cyberspace operations?

(9) How should the Department approach compensation, including pay and other benefits, among military members and civilians serving in and qualified for work roles in support of cyberspace operations, especially in light of competition with the private sector, and how should this approach be common with or differ from those for other high-demand work roles?

(10) How could the Department improve professional military education content and curricula focused on the cyber domain?

(11) Does increased optimization for cyberspace operations incur cost, risk, efficiency, or other tradeoffs to other missions and responsibilities of the Department, or elsewhere within the national security community?

Sec. 1545 - Limitation on availability of funds for the Joint Cyber Warfighting Architecture

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1623) that would limit funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2025 for the Joint Cyber Warfighting Architecture, until the date on which the Commander of United States Cyber Command provides the plan required.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1546 - Risk framework for foreign mobile applications of concern

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1746) that would require the Secretary of Defense to create categorical definitions of foreign mobile applications of concern with respect to personnel or operations of the Department of Defense, distinguishing among categories such as applications for shopping, social media, entertainment, or health; and create a risk framework with respect to Department personnel or operations that assesses each foreign mobile application (or, if appropriate, grouping of similar such applications) that is from a country of concern for any potential impact on Departmental personnel and Departmental operations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1547 - Joint partner-sharing network capabilities for Middle East defense integration

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1615) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a strategy for improved cooperation between the United States and Middle Eastern allies and partners to improve partner sharing network capabilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with clarifying amendments.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Access to national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1533) that would require the Department of Defense (DOD) Chief Information Officer to implement access to the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline from all Department facilities and report to Congress when complete.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that all DOD Defense Service Network (DSN) phones now have the ability to access the Veteran's Crisis Line (988) from anyplace on the globe without dialing any additional digit. We also note that the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system does not currently transmit detailed caller location, like a 911 call, and that 988 geolocation poses significant challenges - most notably time and funding.

We therefore direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, describing the approximate cost and timeline required to modernize DOD systems to facilitate geolocated 988 services for DSN phones. Such briefing should address issues related to architecture, manpower, implementation timelines, funding, and interoperability.

Assessment of feasibility of engaging in cooperative activities with allies to mitigate cyber threats to certain undersea cables

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1601) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment to determine the feasibility of engaging in cybersecurity cooperation activities with international partners and allies of the United States to mitigate cyber threats to undersea cables that originate and terminate outside of the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Assessment of innovative data analysis and information technology solutions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1523) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of an assessment of the implementation by the Department of Defense of innovative data analysis and information technology solutions that could improve risk management, agility, and capabilities for strategic defense purposes.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Authority to accept voluntary and uncompensated services from cybersecurity experts

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1501) that would amend section 167(d) of title 10, United States Code, to add a new paragraph that would allow for the acceptance of voluntary services from cybersecurity experts.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Briefing on course of education and pilot program on authentication of digital content provenance for certain Department of Defense media content

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1624) that would amend section 1524 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) by adding new paragraphs for an interim and final briefing on the training content developed under this provision.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Comptroller General of the United States assessment of cyber command protection of privacy and civil liberties procedures and training requirements for cyber operators

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1605) that would direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of planning procedures available for cyber operations forces to ensure the protection of privacy and civil liberties of United States persons on the conduct of cyber operations and report the results to Congress.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We agree that no later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of the training and certification processes and planning procedures available for Cyber Operations Forces to ensure that the privacy and civil liberties of United States persons are protected in the conduct of military cyber operations, and submit the findings of that assessment to Congress.

We also agree that the assessment conducted by the Comptroller General should address the following:

(1) What guidance, instructions and training are available for United States Cyber Command Cyber Operations Forces for protecting privacy and civil liberties of United

States persons in the conduct of lawful, authorized cyber military operations;

(2) How such members are trained to protect such rights;

(3) The process for integrating protection of such rights in the planning and conduct of military cyber operations to minimize or mitigate interference with such rights;

(4) The role of the external oversight, such as the Office of the Inspector General, in monitoring such training and certification requirements; and

(5) How such instructions and trainings identified address the execution of military cyber operations related to Defense Support of Civil Authorities tasks, including the cyber defense of domestic critical infrastructure.

Comptroller General report on efforts to protect personal information of Department of Defense personnel from exploitation by foreign adversaries

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1627) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to brief the appropriate congressional committees on Department of Defense efforts to protect personal information of its personnel from exploitation by foreign adversaries.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We understand that the Comptroller General of the United States has initiated work on this topic as a result of last year's National Defense Authorization Act. We eagerly await the results of this review.

Consolidation of briefing requirements relating to the relationship between the National Security Agency and United States Cyber Command

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1618) that would amend subsection (c) of section 1642 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328), as added by section 1636 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) to require the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, not later than March 1, 2025 and annually thereafter until March 1, 2028, to provide the appropriate committees of

Congress a briefing on the relationship between the National Security Agency and United States Cyber Command.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Cyber table top exercises with organizations in defense industrial base

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1611) that would require the Executive Director of the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to develop and carry out a plan to conduct cyber table top exercises with organizations in the defense industrial base not less frequently than twice each year until December 31, 2030.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that elements of this provision are incorporated elsewhere in this Act.

Department of Defense use of large language models

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1538) that would require the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of Defense, to coordinate and accelerate the adoption of large language models by the Department of Defense by improving the access and quality of the existing structured and unstructured data of the Department to ensure such data is immediately ready to use in conjunction with machine learning applications being developed, tested, or in production by the Armed Forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that elements of this provision are addressed elsewhere in this Act.

Improvements relating to cyber protection support for Department of Defense personnel in positions highly vulnerable to cyber attack

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1626) that would amend section 1645 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) to clarify that the scope of this authority includes personal accounts, as well as personal technology, of personnel eligible for such cyber protection support.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Limitation on availability of travel funds

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1534) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of more than 75 percent of certain funds authorized for travel expenses for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Army, Office of the Secretary of Navy, and Office of the Secretary of the Air Force until their fulfillment of certain legislative requirements related to cyberspace

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that, with the assumption of the new Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy (ASD(CP)), there has been renewed focus and attention on responding to congressionally directed reporting requirements in a more timely, thorough, and fulsome manner. We have been concerned for several years that the backlog of requests has hindered the ability of the relevant committees to properly exercise oversight of this critical and dynamic domain. We note the ASD(CP)'s promising efforts to institutionalize the processes in a short time frame, and are optimistic about such efforts in the future. While we remain concerned that such a legislative backlog could develop again in the future, we are optimistic that the focus of the ASD(CP) can ensure that legislative requirements are afforded the proper levels of attention going forward. We look forward to continued engagement and partnership on these topics in the future.

Report on State National Guard cyber units

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1539) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility of establishing a cyber unit in every National Guard of a state to ensure the ability of a State to quickly respond to cyber-attacks in such state.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on total force generation for the Cyberspace Operations Forces

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1532) that would amend section 1533(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) by adding a new paragraph to require any supporting analyses conducted by other entities, including federally funded research and development centers, related to total force generation for cyber operations forces.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Report on user activity monitoring programs of the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1540) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on user activity monitoring programs of the Department of Defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees, not later than April 15, 2025, a briefing on user activity monitoring programs of the Department of Defense. Such briefing shall include:

(1) A description of the implementation and enforcement of the requirements of section 1537 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31);

(2) A detailed description of the status of user activity monitoring on the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network;

(3) A comprehensive accounting of the funds made available for user activity monitoring on the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network in fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024;

(4) Plans for deployment of user activity monitoring programs, including appropriate sensing, data retention and integration into other cybersecurity applications, on Secret Internet Protocol Networks; and

(5) Information on how any such user activity monitoring programs might deviate from the minimum standards outlined in the National Insider Threat Policy and Minimum Standards for Executive Branch Insider Threat Programs; the Committee on National Security Systems Directive 504 (issued on February 4, 2014, relating to the protection of national

security systems from insider threats); or the Department of Defense Directive 5205.16 (issued on September 30, 2014, relating to the insider threat program of the Department of Defense).

TITLE XVI—SPACE ACTIVITIES, STRATEGIC PROGRAMS, AND INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—SPACE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 1601 - Modification of Air Force space contractor responsibility watch list

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1604) that would amend section 1612 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) to elevate the management of the contractor responsibility watch list to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1501).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would further clarify the conditions and reporting for placing a contractor on the contractor responsibility watch list as well as specific conditions on the delegation of such authority if required.

Sec. 1602 - Establishment of Commercial Augmentation Space Reserve

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1602) that would establish a program known as the "Commercial Augmentation Space Reserve" to procure space products and services for the reserve use of the Department of Defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1506).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would remove certain exemptions for competition in contracting and cost accounting standards; and require the Secretary of Defense to consult with the Secretary of the Air Force to conduct a study related to the program.

Sec. 1603 - Space Force satellite ground systems

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1504) that would amend chapter 135 of title 10, United States Code, to require completion and operation of satellite ground systems before associated satellite launches; but authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to waive this requirement for national security purposes as necessary.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1604 - Modification of notification of foreign interference of national security space

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1505) that would amend section 2278 of title 10, United States Code, by simplifying the requirements for the Commander, U.S Space Command to notify the congressional defense committees of each foreign attempt to interfere with national security space capabilities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1605 - Modifications to National Security Space Launch program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1603) that would extend the requirement for the Department of Defense to use the National Security Space Launch program, to the extent practical, to procure launch services through September 30, 2029.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1606 - Comptroller General review regarding Global Positioning System modernization and other positioning, navigation, and timing systems

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1508) that would modify reporting and briefing requirements for the Comptroller General of the United States on the Global Positioning System (GPS) III space segment, the GPS operational control segment, and Military GPS user equipment acquisition programs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1607 - Senior Advisor for Space Command, Control, and Integration

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1507) that would require the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration to designate a Program Executive Officer for Space Command, Control, and Integration to oversee U.S. Space Command's requirements for a system to support a combined operations center at the National Space Defense Center.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Assistant Secretary for Space Acquisition and Integration to name a Senior Defense Advisor for Space Command, Control and Integration to meet the integration requirements of the combatant commands. The amendment would also require the Space Acquisition Council to assess annual fulfillment of space command, control and integration requirements of U.S. Space Command and brief the congressional defense committees on activities taken over the past fiscal year and over the future years defense program in meeting those requirements.

Sec. 1608 - Pilot program to demonstrate hybrid satellite communication architecture

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1606) that would require the Commander, Space Systems Command, U. S. Space Force, to implement a pilot program to demonstrate a hybrid space architecture by integrating military and commercial communication systems.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would strike the sense of Congress and require the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration to implement the pilot program.

Sec. 1609 - Middle East integrated space and satellite security assessment

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1607) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment of space and satellite security to identify opportunities for

multilateral agreements to protect ally and partner countries in the area of responsibility of the U.S. Central Command from hostile activities against space systems of the United States or those ally and partner countries.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1288).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1610 - Annual briefing on commercial space strategy of the Space Force

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1605) that would require the Chief of Space Operations to provide a briefing on commercial solutions for the mission areas identified in the U.S. Space Force Commercial Space Strategy published in April 2024.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

SUBTITLE B—DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AND INTELLIGENCE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Sec. 1611 - Extension and modification of authority to engage in certain commercial activities as security for intelligence collection activities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1611) that would amend section 431(a) of title 10, United States Code, by striking ``December 31, 2024`` and inserting ``December 31, 2029`` and require pre-coordination with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency using agreed upon procedures.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1542).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would extend the authority contained in section 431(a) of title 10, United States Code, through December 31, 2028.

Sec. 1612 - Cyber intelligence capability

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1603) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a dedicated cyber intelligence capability to support the requirements of United States Cyber Command, the other

combatant commands, the military departments, defense agencies, the Joint Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense for foundational, scientific and technical, and all-source intelligence on cyber technology development, capabilities, concepts of operation, operations, and plans and intentions of cyber threat actors.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment that would require the establishment of a dedicated cyber intelligence capability rather than a center.

We note our continued support for the establishment of a cyber intelligence capability within the Department of Defense. We recognize that there are pockets of people with useful analytical expertise spread across the existing service intelligence centers that will have valuable experience and analytic contributions to the cyber intelligence mission, so the idea that such contributions may go beyond any single center is understandable. We believe that as the Department formulates a plan for addressing this provision, it is important to carefully consider what constitutes a "cyber intelligence capability." We believe that capability should include existing centers where relevant expertise exists, but should also focus fundamentally on how to build and maintain the new and emerging types of technical knowledge and expertise that is needed by the cyber operations community, but that does not currently exist anywhere in the Department in the scale or depth that is required. Based on recent experience and the emerging results from current cyber pilots, we do not believe that existing all-source intelligence centers alone will be sufficient for the intelligence needs of cyber operators in the future.

Sec. 1613 - Authority of Army Counterintelligence Agents

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1612) that would amend section 7377 of title 10, United States Code, to provide special agents of the Army Counterintelligence Command with the authority to execute warrants and make arrests.

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 6541) that would provide the same authority, but would further terminate this authority 4 years after enactment of this Act. The Senate provision would also require annual briefings on the Army's use of this authority.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1614 - Extension and modification of defense intelligence and counterintelligence expense authority

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1042) that would extend the authorization from section 1057 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) for the expenditure of funds for Department of Defense intelligence and counterintelligence activities from 2025 to 2030 and increase the amount of expenditures the Secretary of Defense may delegate from \$100,000 to \$125,000.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1543).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would codify section 1057 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) for the expenditure of funds for Department of Defense intelligence and counterintelligence activities as section 429a of title 10, United States Code, and increase the amount of expenditures the Secretary of Defense may delegate from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

Sec. 1615 - Intelligence advice and Department of Defense support for Government of Israel in the defeat of Hamas

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1546) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency to provide the Government of Israel defense intelligence, advice, and support to the extent practicable, and consistent with United States objectives, to support Israel's pursuit of the lasting defeat of Hamas, and to assist Israel in either capturing or killing senior Hamas officials.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

SUBTITLE C—NUCLEAR FORCES

Sec. 1621 - Establishment of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical, and Biological Defense Policy and Programs; improvements to processes of the Office of the Secretary of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1525) that would amend section 138(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, to restructure the position of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological

Defense Programs (ASD(NCB)) into the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Deterrence Policy and Programs; and consolidate the principal policymaking, programmatic, and resourcing responsibilities for U.S. nuclear forces within the Office of the Secretary of Defense into the restructured office.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with amendments that adjust the scope of responsibilities, change the name of the position to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical, and Biological Defense Policy and Programs, as well as other technical and conforming amendments.

We note that the Department of Defense is in the process of modernizing and evolving the U.S. nuclear deterrent to adapt to changing international security conditions. We agree that such efforts should not be substantially perturbed by lengthy delays in implementing this adjustment to the organizational oversight structure for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In order to minimize disruption, we believe that the reorganized office should utilize the existing, purely administrative support relationships (e.g., human resources, budgeting, etc.) of an existing office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense to the maximum extent practicable. We also note that this reorganization is intended in part to better provide the Secretary of Defense and their staff with the policy, programmatic, operational, and resourcing information required to fully execute the responsibilities of principal civilian adviser for nuclear issues and expect Department of Defense Components will ensure such information is provided in a complete and transparent manner. We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the congressional defense committees on interim steps to implement the changes directed by this provision by March 1, 2025, and brief the committees on final implementation measures not later than July 1, 2025.

Sec. 1622 - Extension and modification of certifications regarding integrated tactical warning and attack assessment mission of the Department of the Air Force

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1502) that would amend section 1666 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) to provide the Secretary of Defense a waiver for annual certification of the Integrated Tactical Warning and Attack Assessment System; and exempt the Secretary from certain requirements on condition that the Secretary certifies that resources are, and will be, available to remediate any deficiencies related to such system.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1623 - Periodic updates on the modernization of the Strategic Automated Command and Control System

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1518) that would amend section 1644 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to direct the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a recurring briefing on the development of a replacement for the Strategic Automated Command and Control System by the date that the LGM-35A Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile program reaches initial operational capacity.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1624 - Modified requirements for report on the plan for the nuclear weapons stockpile, nuclear weapons complex, nuclear weapons delivery systems, and nuclear weapons command and control system

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1042) that would amend section 492a of title 10, United States Code, to modify reporting requirements regarding nuclear weapons.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1625 - Matters relating to pilot program on development of reentry vehicles and related systems

The Senate committee-reported bill contained provisions (sec. 1517 and 1523) that would amend section 1645 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to direct the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a recurring briefing on the activities of a reentry vehicle pilot program; and expand the authorization for the pilot program to include the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement includes the Senate provisions with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1626 - Expansion of nuclear long range standoff capability

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1628) that would authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to restore nuclear capability to B-52 bombers that had been previously modified to carry only conventional weapons in compliance with the New START Treaty.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained similar provisions (sec. 1522 and 1524).

The agreement includes the Senate provisions with an amendment that would change the requirement for conversion from directive to permissive and make other technical and confirming changes.

Sec. 1627 - Matters relating to the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1621) that would make certain technical changes related to the nuclear-armed, sea-launched cruise missile program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1513) that would amend section 1640 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to modify the direction to establish a joint program between the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense to develop a nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM-N); require the Secretary of the Navy to establish a program element and program office for the SLCM-N development program; and limit the amount of funds that may be obligated or expended by the Secretary of the Navy for travel expenses to not more than 50 percent until the Secretary of the Navy certifies certain actions to implement the SLCM-N development program.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would make technical and conforming changes, consolidate certain requirements, and adjust the limitation on funding to not more than 90 percent of specified funds.

Sec. 1628 - Availability of Air Force procurement funds for heat shield material for Mark 21A reentry vehicle

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1519) that would authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to enter into life-of-program contracts for the procurement of mark 21A reentry vehicle heat shield materials and related processing activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1629 - Conditional requirements for Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1625) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to ensure that Federal Government oversight of the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile program meets certain criteria in the event that the program receives a certification under subsection 4376(b) of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment to require a report in the event that the program receives a revised Milestone B approval, as well as other technical and conforming amendments.

Sec. 1630 - Prohibition on reduction of intercontinental ballistic missiles of the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1624) that would prohibit the use of funds authorized for fiscal year 2025 to reduce the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) of the United States below 400 or reduce the alert level of the ICBM force; but provide an exception to this prohibition for activities related to maintenance, sustainment, and replacement, or activities to ensure safety, security, or reliability.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1515); and a proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 8112) that would express the sense of Congress that the modernization of the ground-based leg of the nuclear triad of the United States is vital to the security of the homeland.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1631 - Limitation on use of funds for altering Air Force Global Strike Command

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 921) that would prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025 for altering or adjusting the existing composition, roles, or responsibilities of Air Force Global Strike Command for the development of military requirements for strategic deterrence or the execution of Joint Forces Air Component Command support responsibilities for U.S.

Strategic Command until 90 days after the Secretary of the Air Force, in consultation with the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, provides a plan to the congressional defense committees to ensure that future adjustments to the composition, roles, or responsibilities of Air Force Global Strike Command will not adversely affect the meeting the operational requirements of U.S. Strategic Command or activities of the Department of Defense to achieve presidential nuclear employment guidance objectives.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1632 - Limitations on use of funds to dismantle B83-1 nuclear gravity bomb

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1623) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of more than 80 percent of certain funds authorized for travel expenses for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering until the submission of the strategy required by section 1674(b)(3) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263); and limit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the dismantlement of the B83-1 nuclear gravity bomb, with certain exceptions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1633 - Limitation on availability of funds pending submission of plan for decreasing the time to upload additional warheads to the intercontinental ballistic missile fleet

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1520) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of more than 70 percent of certain funds authorized for travel expenses for the Secretary of the Air Force until the Secretary provides the plan required by section 1650 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) for decreasing the time to upload additional warheads to the intercontinental ballistic missile fleet.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would adjust the limitation to not more than 80 percent of specified funds.

Sec. 1634 - Limitation on availability of funds pending submission of information on options for enhancing National Nuclear Security Administration access to the defense industrial base

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1521) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of more than 80 percent of certain funds authorized for travel expenses for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy until the Assistant Secretary provides a required briefing on enhancing the National Nuclear Security Administration's access to the defense industrial base.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would adjust the limitation to not more than 90 percent of specified funds.

Sec. 1635 - Defense Industrial Base workforce development strategy

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1541) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a strategy to develop a skilled manufacturing and high-demand vocational trade workforce in support of the national technology and industrial base and nuclear security enterprise.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with technical and conforming amendments.

Sec. 1636 - Long-term plan for strategic nuclear forces during delivery vehicle transition

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1622) that would require the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command to provide a baseline strategy, biennially through 2031, on deployed strategic nuclear warheads.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1637 - Reports and briefings on recommendations of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1626) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide annual reports and briefings on implementation of the recommendations of the

Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, established under section 1687 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained similar provisions (sec. 1511 and 1512).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would make technical and conforming changes.

Sec. 1638 - Sense of Congress with respect to use of artificial intelligence to support strategic deterrence

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1627) that would affirm the current policy of maintaining a human "in the loop" for critical actions that inform and implement presidential decisions on nuclear weapon employment.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would add a sense of Congress and modify the statement of policy with respect to artificial intelligence and the integrity of nuclear safeguards.

SUBTITLE D—MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS

Sec. 1641 - Expansion of certain prohibitions relating to missile defense information and systems to apply to People's Republic of China

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1631) that would expand existing prohibitions related to sharing certain missile defense information with the Russian Federation to also include the People's Republic of China.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1642 - Additional missile defense site for protection of United States homeland

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1633) that would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to establish, by 2031, a fully operational third continental ballistic missile interceptor site on the east coast of the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment.

Sec. 1643 - Advice and assistance regarding enhancement of Jordanian air and missile defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1512) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a strategy to improve cooperation between allies and partners in the Middle East with respect to air and missile defense efforts.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1536) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commander, U.S. Central Command, to work cooperatively with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to establish further capabilities for countering air and missile threats from Iran and Iranian-linked groups.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Commander of U.S. Central Command, to seek to advise and assist the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with respect to countering certain air and missile threats. The provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to assess the feasibility of including Jordan in a multinational integrated air and missile defense architecture.

Further, we direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on implementation of section 1658 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263; 136 Stat. 2951), including an update to the strategy required in subsection (b).

Sec. 1644 - Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system and Israeli cooperative missile defense program co-development and co-production

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1533) that would authorize funding for the procurement of the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system, David's Sling weapon system, and Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor program as outlined under the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Ministry of Defense of the State of Israel Concerning Iron Dome Defense System Procurement.

The House bill contained no similar provision
The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1645 - Limitation on availability of funds with respect to certain missile defense system governance documents, policies, and procedures

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1632) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of more than 90 percent of certain funds authorized for travel expenses for the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering until the Under Secretary certifies rescission of the Directive Memorandum 20-002 relating to "Missile Defense System Policies and Governance" pursuant to section 1667 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1646 - Congressional notification requirement with respect to incidents that affect availability of United States homeland missile defenses

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1532) that would require the Secretary of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees not later than 24 hours after a major incident affecting the availability of the United States homeland missile defense system.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1647 - Plan for comprehensive ballistic missile defense radar coverage of Guam

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1534) that would require the Secretary of the Army to provide a plan to ensure radar coverage of Guam for defense against simultaneous ballistic missile threats from the People's Republic of China and North Korea.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1648 - Annual briefing on missile defense of Guam

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1535) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to provide an annual briefing, concurrent with the transmittal of the President's budget

request, on missile defense of Guam until the overall missile defense of the island reaches full operational capability.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 1649 - Organization and codification of provisions of law relating to missile defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1537) that would amend part I of subtitle A of title 10, United States Code, to establish a new chapter regarding missile defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would repeal certain outdated requirements.

SUBTITLE E—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 1651 - Cooperative threat reduction funds

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1642) that would authorize \$350.1 million to be appropriated for the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and allocate specific funding for component programs; and specify that funds authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, established under the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Act (50 U.S.C. 3711), would be available for obligation for fiscal years 2025 through 2027.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1301).

The conference agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1652 - Temporary continuation of requirement for reports on activities and assistance under Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1302) that would amend section 1080(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) to reinstate an annual reporting requirement for the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program through calendar year 2030.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1653 - Modification to annual assessment of budget with respect to electromagnetic spectrum operations capabilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1641) that would amend section 503 of title 10, United States Code, related to an annual assessment of the budget with respect to modeling and simulation capabilities for joint electromagnetic spectrum operations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a related provision (sec. 1548) that would make technical corrections to chapter 25 of title 10, United States Code.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would make technical and conforming changes.

We note that the additional technical corrections are addressed elsewhere in this agreement.

Sec. 1654 - Modification of milestone decision authority for space-based ground and airborne moving target indication systems

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1503) that would amend section 1684 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) to modify the milestone decision authority for space-based ground and airborne moving target indication systems to oversee program cost and execution baseline; and require the service acquisition executive for the Air Force for space systems and programs to designate a program executive office for space-based air and ground moving target indication.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to be the milestone decision authority for space-based moving target indication primarily funded by the Department of Defense and require the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide to congressional defense committees, not later than May 31, 2025, a date for the initial operating capability of a spaced-based ground moving target indication system.

Sec. 1655 - Designation of a senior defense official responsible for establishment of a national integrated air and missile defense architecture for the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1057) that would require the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide a report on current or new sensor and interceptor capabilities for defending critical infrastructure.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1531).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would eliminate reporting requirements and require the Secretary of Defense to designate a senior official to be responsible for a national integrated air and missile defense architecture for the United States.

We direct the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, through the designated official, to provide a briefing, not later than December 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the development of an integrated air and missile defense architecture for defending the homeland. At a minimum, the briefing shall include:

(1) Identification of terrestrial, maritime, orbital, and cyber technological capabilities to address non-ballistic and ballistic missile threats to the homeland and any associated critical infrastructure assets, including the sensor, command and control, and missile defeat systems required for the operation of an integrated missile defense architecture for the United States during the 10-year period starting on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) Technological requirements to ensure compatibility with the integrated air and missile defense capabilities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the integrated air and missile defense architecture in the Indo-Pacific region that is under development as of the date of the enactment of this Act;

(3) Integrated, time-phased development, procurement, and deployment schedule for the systems comprising the specified architecture;

(4) Initial cost estimates for development and procurement of the required assets;

(5) Development and integration risk of the proposed architecture;

(6) Personnel required to operate the proposed architecture, including opportunities for reducing the anticipated personnel requirements through increased use of automation; and

(7) Any other matters the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider appropriate.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Assessment of updated force sizing requirements

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1514) that would require the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide a strategy to deter and defend against simultaneous aggression from two near-peer nuclear competitors.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide a strategy to the congressional defense committees, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, that enables the United States to concurrently:

(1) Achieve the nuclear employment objectives of the President against any adversary that conducts a strategic attack against the United States or its allies;

(2) Hold at risk all classes of adversary targets described in the nuclear weapons employment guidance issued by the President as of the date of the enactment of this Act;

(3) Defend against simultaneous aggression by two near-peer nuclear-armed competitors; and

(4) Provide a credible defense against limited long-range strikes against the United States homeland.

The strategy, in classified form with an unclassified summary, should include:

(1) An assessment of the quantities and types of forces necessary to implement such strategy;

(2) Pursuant to section 491 of title 10, United States Code, a description of the classes of targets necessary to hold at risk via nuclear forces in order to achieve the requirements of the United States Strategic Command and the deterrence and assurance objectives of the United States;

(3) A projection of the planned growth in potential target quantities due to the expansion and diversification of likely adversary capabilities during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(4) A comparison of the quantities and various employment options available in the nuclear weapons stockpile of the United States since January 1, 1991, and options that are expected to be available during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(5) An assessment of the impact of delays in ongoing or planned modernization of nuclear, missile defense, space, or conventional long-range strike programs of the United States; and

(6) Any other factors the Secretary or the Chairman believe pertinent for assessing force sizing requirements.

Briefing on capabilities in cislunar space

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1609A) that would require the Chief of Space Operations to provide a report on requirements and research and development for cislunar space domain awareness.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Chief of Space Operations to provide a briefing, not later than June 30, 2025, to the congressional defense committees that includes a description of:

(1) Requirements for cislunar space domain awareness capabilities;

(2) The plan of the Department of Defense for researching and developing technologies for cislunar space domain awareness; and

(3) Progress of the Department of Defense in coordinating with the Cislunar Technology Strategy Interagency Working Group to achieve the objectives set forth in the publication of the Working Group titled "National Cislunar Science and Technology Strategy" and dated November 2022.

Briefing on space-related waveform and datalink capabilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1609) that would require the Chief of Space Operations and the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration to provide a briefing on resourcing and enabling an architecture to connect the various communication architectures of the Space Force.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Chief of Space Operations and the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration to provide a briefing, not later than February 29, 2025, to the congressional defense committees on a plan to resource and enable an architecture to connect, with operationally relevant interoperability, the following:

(1) The communication architectures of the Space Force, including the Space Development Agency Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture as well as the United States Space Force Satellite Control Network;

- (2) Protected tactical enterprise services;
- (3) Evolved strategic satellite communications;
- (4) Narrowband satellite communications;
- (5) Wideband satellite communications; and
- (6) Such other systems as the Chief of Space Operations and the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration determine appropriate.

Limitation on use of funds for certain unreported programs

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1544) that would prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2025 on any classified program involving unidentified anomalous phenomena that has not been briefed to the appropriate committees of Congress and congressional leadership.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We recognize the concerns by many in Congress over adequate reporting and oversight for activities related to unidentified anomalous phenomena, but note that current statute in section 119 of title 10, United States Code, specifically provides for the legal restrictions and protections necessary to ensure that Congress can exercise its responsibilities. Adding additional funding limitations cannot make it more illegal to withhold or obfuscate information regarding such programs from Congressional view, but could potentially have other unintended or unforeseen that could impact programs beyond the scope of activities that were addressed in the provision.

Plan for improvement of Space Force satellite control network

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1608) that would require the Chief of Space Operations to provide a plan for modernizing the satellite control network of the U.S. Space Force.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Chief of Space Operations, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration, to submit a comprehensive plan, not later than March 31, 2025, to the congressional defense committees on modernizing the satellite control network of the Space Force. The plan should include:

(1) The actions and resources required to modernize and sustain a resilient, multi-mission, multi-orbit satellite control network for the Space Force;

(2) Life-cycle sustainment measures that include technical refresh efforts to enable dynamic space operations;

(3) Assessments of current and planned architectural hardware capabilities, across the range of classification levels, and an explanation of how such capabilities are expected to be addressed in future budget requests;

(4) Plans for incorporating commercial capabilities into the network, as appropriate; and

(5) Mechanisms through which the Space Force may use existing funding to accelerate the rapid adoption of capabilities and life-cycle sustainment efforts to quickly modernize the satellite control network.

Preparations for possible deployment of additional intercontinental ballistic missiles

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1516) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to develop a plan for deploying up to 450 Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), rather than the 400 Minuteman III ICBMs currently deployed; and direct the Program Executive Officer for Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles to develop an alternative acquisition strategy for the Sentinel ICBM weapon system for deployment of 450 Sentinel ICBMs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct that, not later than September 1, 2025, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in coordination with the Secretary of the Air Force, the Commander, United States Strategic Command, the Administrator for Nuclear Security, and the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall provide a briefing regarding the deployment of up to 450 Sentinel ICBMs during the planned life of the Sentinel ICBM weapon system, in the event that a presidential decision be made to increase the number of deployed ICBMs.

The report shall include a description of necessary changes to the revised Milestone B acquisition strategy for deploying 450 Sentinel ICBMs, including:

(1) Procurement of booster sets, reentry vehicles, ground support and maintenance equipment, nuclear weapons components, and countermeasures to accommodate the continuous deployment of 450 Sentinel ICBMs during the planned life of the system and satisfy anticipated testing requirements;

(2) Impacts to associated ongoing command, control, and communications modernization programs;

(3) Initial acquisition cost estimates and deployment timelines necessary to accomplish the above; and

(4) Any treaty or policy implications for consideration in the event that presidential direction is given to deploy additional ICBMs.

Report on roles and responsibilities relating to defense against hypersonic threats

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1643) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on roles and responsibilities related to defense against hypersonic threats.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to deliver a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on the roles and responsibilities related to defending against hypersonic threats including the following elements:

(1) A description of the roles and responsibilities of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, the Joint Staff, the combatant commands, Defense Agencies, and Department of Defense Field Activities;

(2) An assessment of any duplication of effort or gaps identified in paragraph (1);

(3) A recommendation with respect to designating a single entity with acquisition authority with respect to the capability to defend the homeland from hypersonic threats; and

(4) Such other matters as the Secretary considers relevant.

Sense of Congress on the development of very low earth orbit spacecraft

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1609B) that would express the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to construct a hybrid space architecture that integrates advanced commercial technologies for very low earth orbit spacecraft.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We find that:

(1) The Space Force has demonstrated its commitment to building a resilient, safe, and secure space architecture and incorporating transformational commercially developed space technologies to accelerate the fielding of capabilities, including in very low earth orbit;

(2) Advancements in propulsion systems, materials science, affordable launch costs, and orbital management techniques have opened up new possibilities for utilizing very low earth orbit for various purposes, including ultra-high-resolution reconnaissance, low latency communication, and improved space domain awareness;

(3) Congress and the Department of Defense should continue to pursue these efforts in support of the National Defense Strategy and the Commercial Space Strategy of the Space Force to accelerate the purposeful pursuit of hybrid space architectures; and

(4) The Space Force should continue to scale up these efforts and further explore the benefits of very low earth orbit spacecraft development to improve responsiveness, enhance image resolution, generate orbital diversity, and increase resilience against space debris and other threats.

Report on Space Force use of nuclear thermal propulsion and nuclear electric propulsion space vehicles

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1609C) that would require the Chief of Space Operations to provide a report on Space Force use of nuclear thermal propulsion and nuclear electric propulsion space vehicles.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Chief of Space Operations to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees, not later than March 31, 2025, on the Space Force use of nuclear thermal propulsion and nuclear electric propulsion space vehicles to include:

(1) Description of how the Space Force uses such vehicles currently and plans to use such vehicles in the future; and

(2) Potential benefits that such vehicles can provide to bolster the national security of the United States.

Sensitive compartmented information facility accreditation

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1613) that would require the Secretary of Defense to assign responsibility

to the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency for the accreditation of sensitive compartmented information facilities for all components of the Department of Defense (DOD)— including the military departments, except with respect to the National Security Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We remain concerned that the current processes for accrediting and reaccrediting secure compartmented information facilities (SCIF), while vitally necessary, may also contribute to backlogs in work and nearly insurmountable barriers for many small and nontraditional defense companies. Many of the concerns regarding backlogs and unnecessarily extended timelines to achieve accreditation or reaccreditation are based on anecdotal evidence. However, valid, comprehensive and longitudinal data on the scope and the scale of the problem has been difficult to ascertain. We believe that a comprehensive data collection program centered on this process, similar to the development and measurement of procurement administrative lead time to baseline the acquisition process, is necessary before considering any potentially disruptive organizational changes.

Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense, through the Department of Defense Performance Improvement Officer in coordination with the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, to provide a briefing, not later than June 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the Department's activities to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of the SCIF accreditation and reaccreditation processes across the Department of Defense. The briefing should include:

- (1) Current data, including baseline goals or benchmarks, for the timelines for conducting SCIF accreditation and reaccreditation by Department of Defense components with delegated responsibility for accreditation actions;
- (2) Identification of gaps in such data collection, and plans to close such gaps;
- (3) Development of measurable goals or other benchmarks for delegated components to identify bottlenecks in the process and close gaps in data collection and data quality;
- (4) Recommendations for improving input, data or other feedback from entities undergoing the accreditation or reaccreditation process in order to identify process improvements that may decrease timelines and increase quality of the outputs of the process; and

(5) Recommendations for policy improvements or policy guidance needed to institutionalize such data collection and process improvements, including through the use of databases, automated analysis tools or other automation to streamline data collection, analysis and transparency.

Resilience of position, navigation, and timing technologies and services

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1509) that would require any position, navigation, and timing technology and service procured, or otherwise acquired by the Department of Defense, to be able to acquire, track, and provide accurate position, navigation, or timing information when L1 Signals or L2 Signals are jammed, spoofed, blocked, or subject to harmful interference.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note that the Department of Defense – despite more than a decade of congressional direction, delays, and billions in cost overruns – continues to resist adequately addressing the resilient position, navigation, and timing needs of the services. The Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383) directed the Department of Defense to transition all receivers to the more resilient M-Code, and this has still not happened. Modern resilient Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites still do not have secure ground architecture fielded, despite several years of work and a Nunn-McCurdy breach.

Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to provide an assessment accompanied by a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, on the status of fielding resilient position, navigation, and timing technology and service across the Department.

The assessment and briefing shall include:

(1) Feasibility, projected cost, and timeline to require all position, navigation, and timing technology and service procured or otherwise acquired by the Department of Defense to have the ability to acquire, track, and provide accurate position, navigation, or timing information if L1 Signals and L2 Signals are jammed, spoofed, blocked, or subject to harmful interference;

(2) Status of M-Code resilient receiver deliveries to the weapons systems and people that require them, to include a plan to field these receivers on an operationally relevant timeline;

(3) Current schedule and status of full operational capability of the ground station to GPS III/F, the advanced GPS satellite transmitting M-Code, known as OCX;

(4) Plans to include commercial position, navigation, and timing technologies in future DOD resilient precision, navigation, and timing efforts; and

(5) Update on any efforts to incorporate non-traditional and non-space-based resilient position, navigation, and timing information into DOD operations.

TITLE XVII—OTHER DEFENSE MATTERS

Sec. 1701 - Technical and conforming amendments

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1741) that would make technical and conforming amendments to existing law.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment to include additional technical and conforming amendments to existing law.

Sec. 1702 - Modification of humanitarian assistance authority

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1701) that would modify the authority for humanitarian assistance under section 2561 of title 10, United States Code, to stipulate that such authority shall be used overseas and would also require the Secretary of Defense to provide a notice before providing certain humanitarian assistance pursuant to section 2561 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a notice before providing certain humanitarian assistance pursuant to section 2561 of title 10, United States Code.

Sec. 1703 - Display of United States flag for patriotic and military observances

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1743) that would amend section 8(c) of title 4, United States Code, to modify the requirements concerning the display of the flag of the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would expand the authorization under this provision to all Americans displaying the flag as a part of a military or patriotic observance.

Sec. 1704 - Exclusion of oceanographic research vessels from certain sourcing requirements

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1702) that would exclude naval oceanographic research vessels operated by academic institutions from certain sourcing requirements.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, modified to extend the exclusion to all oceanographic research vessels.

Sec. 1705 - Expanding cooperative research and development agreements to partnerships with United States territorial governments

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6068) that would amend section 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to include territorial governments.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1706 - Use of royalty gas at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6070) that would require the Secretary of Energy to accept in-kind royalty gas from leases on the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and to sell such royalty gas to the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 1707 - Report on Iranian oil sales proceeds

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1728) that would require the President to provide a report on Iranian oil sales proceeds.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 1708 - Prohibition on use of funds for temporary pier in Gaza

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1705) that would prohibit the use of funds for constructing or maintain a pier off the coast of Gaza. The House bill also contained a provision (sec. 1749) that would prohibit the use of funds for the construction of a Gaza port.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 1709 - Analysis of certain unmanned aircraft systems entities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1722) that would require the Secretary of Defense to investigate drone companies from the People's Republic of China for potential listing on the Chinese military company list in accordance with section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) and add Shenzhen DJI Sciences and Technologies Company to the Federal Communications Commission's Covered List.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Annual report on Department of Defense assistance to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Department of Homeland Security on northern border security

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1734) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide an annual report on Department of Defense assistance to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security to secure the northern border of the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs to submit a report, not later

than April 1, 2025, to the congressional defense committees on the assistance that the Department of Defense currently provides to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security to secure the northern border of the United States.

Assessment of the accuracy of Gaza Ministry of Health casualty reporting

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1733) that would require the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency to submit a report assessing the accuracy of the reporting of the Gaza Ministry of Health.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, and provide a briefing, not later than September 1, 2025, assessing the accuracy of the reporting of the Gaza Ministry of Health. The report and briefing shall include:

(1) The total casualty figures reported by the Ministry; and

(2) The information disseminated by the Ministry of casualties grouped by age and gender.

Briefing on institutional capacity building of countries within United States Africa Command area of responsibility

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1765) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on the adequacy of institutional capacity building in countries within the area of responsibility of the United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM) to strengthen governance in the defense sectors of such countries.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that increasing economic and military presence by Russia and the People's Republic of China and the malign activities of violent extremist organizations threaten stability and other U.S. national security interests in Africa. USAFRICOM is committed to building strategic partnerships with African partners and bolstering stability on the continent. One critical component of such efforts is institutional capacity building

(ICB) programing that helps partners strengthen governance in the defense sectors and reinforce shared commitments to democracy, transparency, and the rule of law. We encourage the Department of Defense to ensure ICB efforts remain a critical component of all security cooperation programs.

Certification and reports on South Africa

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1725) that would require the President to certify to certain congressional committees whether South Africa has engaged in activities that undermine United States national security or foreign policy interests. The provision would also require a report to accompany such certification providing a justification for the determination. It would require the President to conduct a review of the bilateral relationship between the United States and South Africa, and to deliver a report that includes the findings of the review. The provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on U.S. defense cooperation with South Africa.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We are concerned by South Africa's growing cooperation with the Governments of Iran, the People's Republic of China, and Russia. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, not later than April 1, 2025, on defense cooperation between the United States and South Africa. The briefing shall include:

- (1) A discussion of military exercises and security cooperation between the United States and South Africa;
- (2) A summary of South Africa's defense cooperation with Iran, the People's Republic of China, and Russia;
- (3) An analysis whether South Africa's military activities are consistent with United States national security and military interests; and
- (4) Any other issues the Secretary considers appropriate.

Combatting illicit tobacco products

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1704) that would establish a process for approving the sale of certain

Electronic Nicotine Delivery System products or oral nicotine products at military commissaries and exchanges.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on steps the Department is taking to ensure that all tobacco products, to include any product containing nicotine, sold at military operated establishments are compliant with federal tobacco regulations including the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.). The briefing should also include the process the Department has implemented to ensure that all non-Department of Defense retail establishments located on installations, including kiosks and third-party vendors on military installations, are in compliance with the aforementioned regulations.

Common coalition key within the Baltic states

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1767) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a common coalition key within the Baltic states for purposes of sharing ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems among such states for training and operational purposes.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that issues pertaining to security cooperation with the Baltic states are addressed elsewhere in this report.

Comptroller General study and report on antagonistic use of satellites

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1735) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report on threats from adversaries' antagonistic use of satellites.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Copyright protection for certain literary works of military members of the faculty of certain institutions

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1750) that would amend Section 105(d) of title 17 of the United States Code, in paragraph (1), by striking "civilian"; and in paragraph (2), by adding at the end of the following: "(O) Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.".

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Department of Defense requirement to use "Taiwan"

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1712) that would prohibit the Department of Defense from using "Chinese Taipei" and require the use of "Taiwan".

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Development of national strategy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1756) that would require the President to develop a national strategy to use microreactors to assist with natural disaster response efforts.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Exemption under Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 for certain activities that may result in incidental take of Rice's whale

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1703) that would require the Secretaries of Commerce, Interior, and Defense to begin the process of providing an exemption under Marine Mammal Protection Act for activities carried out at the Eglin Test and Training Range that may result in the incidental take of Rice's whales.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Expansion of eligibility for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1742) that would amend section 1965 of title 38, United States Code, to

expand SGLI eligibility to include cadets and midshipmen attending advanced training.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Extension of report on islamic revolutionary guard corps-affiliated operatives abroad

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1726) that would require the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to submit a report on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-affiliated operatives abroad.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the requirements in the House provision have been addressed through a modification to the Report on Military Capabilities of Iran and related activities as required by section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81), and in section 1269 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

Feasibility study of domestic refining of deep sea critical mineral intermediates

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1724) that would authorize a study to assess the feasibility of improving domestic capabilities for refining polymetallic nodule derived intermediates into high purity nickel, cobalt sulfate, and copper for defense applications.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy, to report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than December 31, 2025, with a study on the feasibility and advisability of improving domestic capabilities for refining polymetallic nodule-derived intermediates into high purity nickel, cobalt sulfate, and copper for defense applications. The study shall also examine existing supply chains for such intermediaries. The Secretary of Defense may consult or enter into an agreement with a Federally funded research and development center for the study.

Federal contractor vulnerability disclosure policy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1747) that would require covered contractors implement a vulnerability disclosure policy consistent with National Institute of Standards and Technology guidelines.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

GAO study on Department of Defense Education Activity Disability Emphasis Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1766) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) Disability Emphasis Program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than July 1, 2025, on the following matters--

(1) Whether the DODEA Disability Emphasis Program is meeting its goals; and

(2) How such program supports the employment, retention, and career advancement of individuals with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities.

Inspector General of the Department of Defense annual report on oversight of fraud, waste, and abuse

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1703) that would require the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to provide a report for each fiscal year that contains a description of the budget of the Department of Defense, the total amount and dollar value of oversight investigations into fraud, waste, and abuse conducted by the Inspector General, and the total amount and dollar value of oversight investigations into fraud, waste, and abuse conducted by the Inspectors General of each military department.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Limitation on availability of funds for Ukraine

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1711) that would prohibit funds authorized to be appropriated for construction of covered military unaccompanied housing to be transferred or otherwise made available to Ukraine or to provide any form of assistance to Ukraine.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Limitation on displaying in certain public areas cut flowers or greens not produced in the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1763) that would prohibit a cut flower or a cut green from being officially displayed in any public area of a building of the Executive Office of the President, the Department of State, or the Department of Defense unless such cut green or cut flower is produced in the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Limitation on funding activities performed by persons in drag

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1754) that would prohibit funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for a drag show, drag queen story hour or similar event.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that all planned drag shows on all military installations were cancelled after the Department of Defense (DOD) learned about them during a House Armed Services Committee hearing on March 29, 2023. DOD determined that permitting non-Federal entities to conduct drag show events at U.S. military installations or facilities is inconsistent with the longstanding criteria for providing this logistical support to non-federal entities, including DOD Instruction 1000.15, "Procedures and Support for Non-Federal Entities Authorized to Operate on DOD Installations" and the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER) section 3-211, "Logistical Support of Non-Federal Entity Events." The JER states that heads of DOD component organizations may provide, on a limited basis, logistical support (use of DOD facilities and equipment) to non-Federal entity events, but only if they determine seven factors to

ensure that the support may be authorized as supporting legitimate DOD interests. The DOD Office of General Counsel determined that drag queen story hours did not serve a legitimate DOD public affairs interest nor was this an appropriate association for DOD.

Limitation on funds

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1707) that would prohibit Department of Defense funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology; EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.; any laboratory owned or controlled by the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Venezuela or any other foreign adversary; and gain-of-function research.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that other provisions (sec. 1055) of this Act address the same matter. In addition, we are aware that the Department of Defense does not currently conduct gain-of-function research nor has planned funds for such purposes in fiscal year 2025.

Prohibition of funds to CCP entities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1706) that would prohibit funds authorized by this Act or otherwise made available by this Act from being made available to any entity based in the People's Republic of China or any company whose beneficial ownership is Chinese.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibition on assistance for building in, or rebuilding Gaza

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1708) that would prohibit the use of funds for assistance for building in, or rebuilding the Gaza strip.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibition on diverting funding from the Indo-Pacific region

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1755) that would prohibit the diversion of Department of Defense funds

previously appropriated for assistance for the Indo-Pacific region.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Prohibition on use of funds

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1710) that would prohibit the use of funds to be used to implement any of the following executive orders: Executive Order 13990, Executive Order 14008, section 6 of Executive Order 14013, Executive Order 14030, Executive Order 14057, Executive Order 14082, and Executive Order 14096.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Project Spectrum

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1713) that would amend chapter 19 of title 10, United States Code, to insert a new section.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the importance of protecting our small business industrial base against cyber attacks from the full spectrum of cyber actors, from simple criminal and ransomware attacks to sophisticated national state campaigns. With the finalization of the rules for the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification, we believe it is important that the Department of Defense provide additional assistance to small businesses in the defense industrial base navigating this process. We believe such assistance crucial to the more fundamental need to strengthen the overall cyber defense posture of this vulnerable sector.

We are aware that the Department has some dedicated programs specific to this issue, such as Project Spectrum, but also note efforts undertaken by Defense Cyber Crime Center and the National Security Agency's Cyber Collaboration Center, among others, that provide various forms of assistance to this community. We believe that the Department should provide comprehensive and coordinated guidance to the military services and defense agencies and field activities in order to ensure unity of effort, reduce opportunities for unwarranted duplication across investments, and simplify entry points into the Department for those seeking to obtain such support.

Records relating to Tower 22 attack

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1748) that would require the President to make available to the Congress all records relating to the January 28, 2024 attack on Tower 22 in Jordan.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the After Action Report on the January 28, 2024 attack on Tower 22 in Jordan and additional relevant records were provided to the Congress from the Department of Defense.

Reduction of light pollution at Department of Defense facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1744) that would require the Department of Defense to assess encroachment on military activities and aviation safety due to light pollution.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, with an assessment of the extent to which light pollution is impacting operational readiness and training activities at installations within the military departments. The briefing shall include at the minimum the following: (1) An evaluation of current lighting at facilities and the extent and manner to which unshielded lighting is creating light pollution detrimental to operational readiness or training; (2) A discussion of mitigation measures that could be implemented without negatively impacting safety to include, reduction of lighting where possible and alternatives such as shielded lighting, low-output light-emitting diodes, dimmers, or warm-toned lighting options where appropriate; (3) A discussion of the methodologies used to determine where current lighting is causing negative impacts; and (4) A discussion of the alternatives considered to reduce the impacts observed.

Report on military spouse security clearance

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1758) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence to provide a report to Congress on the technical, operational, human resources, and

legal challenges that would result from accelerating security clearance reviews of military spouses by using information, including address verification, from the spousal review of their connected servicemember's security clearance, as well as the anticipated benefits of such a change.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, by no later than April 1, 2025, on the technical, operational, human resource, and legal challenges that would result from accelerating security clearance reviews of military spouses by using information, including address verification, from the spousal review portion associate with their connected service member's security clearance, as well as the potential and anticipated benefits of such a change.

Report on receipt of funding from Confucius Institutes

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1727) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on U.S. institutions of higher education that host Confucius Institutes and receive Department of Defense funding.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note the risk of Confucius Institutes operating in the United States, specifically at academic institutions that receive Department of Defense funding. We further note that, according to the Department of Defense, no academic institutions that receive Department of Defense funding host a Confucius Institute as of the summer of 2023. While one Confucius Institute remains in the United States, it resides at an institution that does not receive any Department of Defense funding.

Report on security cooperation with the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1732) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on security cooperation with the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the treatment of detained Americans on the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than April 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on security cooperation with the Turks and Caicos Islands including any security cooperation programs intended to counter threats from transnational criminal organizations, violent extremist organizations, and malign regional and external state actors since fiscal year 2020 and the cost of such programs.

Report on system dependencies, uptime, and key factors of electronic health record system

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1737) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to appropriate congressional committees on the electronic health record system and other system dependencies, uptime, and key factors that affect the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than July 30, 2025, on system dependencies, uptime, and key factors of the Department's electronic health record system that affect the provision of health care by the Defense Health Agency.

Report on the use of major non-NATO ally status for Kenya

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1762) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to provide a report on the use of major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization status for Kenya.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that Kenya is a key partner in addressing a range of shared threats and advancing stability and security in East Africa and beyond. In recognition of the close and continuing partnership between the United States and Kenya, the United States recently named Kenya a major non-NATO ally, the first such designation for a country in sub-Saharan Africa. We commend Kenya for continuing to play a critical role in regional

security, including hosting Justified Accord, U.S. Africa Command's largest exercise in East Africa, and serving as lead nation for the multilateral United Nations mission to help stabilize Haiti. We encourage the Department of Defense to continue efforts to identify opportunities to deepen collaboration.

Report on use of nuclear power for military and soft power purposes

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1738) that would require the Secretaries of Defense and State to provide a report on the efforts of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China relating to transportable nuclear power that specifically evaluates the manner and extent to which both Russia and China are using transportable nuclear power for direct military purposes and as a soft power tool globally.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, on any Russian and Chinese efforts related to transportable nuclear power that specifically evaluates the manner and extent to which, if any, both Russia and China are using transportable nuclear power for military purposes and as a soft power tool globally.

Reporting on Iranian Centrifuge Installation

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1736) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on Iranian centrifuge installation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than February 1, 2025 on Iranian centrifuge installation. The report shall include:

- (1) An assessment of the types and numbers of centrifuges installed in declared and undeclared nuclear facilities in Iran since May 2021;
- (2) An assessment of the timeline required by Iran to produce weapons-grade uranium;

(3) An assessment of the current timeline required by Iran to produce weapons-grade uranium;

(4) An assessment of whether Iran has moved advanced centrifuges to facilities other than its safeguarded enrichment plants, including where and how many, if applicable;

(5) An assessment of how many advanced centrifuges Iran would need of each type to enrich to weapons-grade; and

(6) An assessment of whether a heavily fortified nuclear facility Iran is building near the Natanz site contains or will contain an enrichment plant.

Revocation of Security Clearances for Certain Persons

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1751) that would require the Secretary of Defense to suspend or revoke a security clearance or access to classified information for any retired or separated member of the uniformed service or civilian employee of the Department of Defense who engages in certain activities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the current security clearance forms for initiating a background investigation already include questions on support for foreign entities, and the implementation of continuous vetting procedures allows for updates in between periodic reinvestigations to accommodate dynamic developments in near real time. Any individual holding a security clearance is responsible for being forthcoming and transparent in notifying the government of changes in information that might impact their ability to hold and maintain classified information, so that this continuous vetting process can remain agile and responsive. We believe lobbying for foreign entities requires review and oversight by the Department, and it is appropriate to continue to place focus on these questions during the adjudication process.

Rewards for information regarding leaders of Hamas

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1760) that would require the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Secretary of Defense to advocate in their respective roles on the Foreign Threat Intelligence Committee to request the Rewards for Justice Program to offer \$25.0 million each in incentives for information regarding certain leaders of Hamas.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that Hamas terrorists Yahya Sinwar and Mohamed Deif, who were responsible for planning the October 7 massacre, have been killed. We support making rewards available under the Rewards for Justice (RFJ) program for information that leads to the arrest, location, or financial disruption of Hamas leaders or operatives responsible for the murder and kidnapping of Americans on October 7, 2023.

Sense of Congress regarding feasibility study for Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1759) that would express the sense of Congress regarding a feasibility study for Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We acknowledge receipt of the 2023 feasibility study and subsequent 2024 report conducted for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), which identified critical opportunities for augmenting the Organic Industrial Base. These reports identified three high-feasibility growth opportunities: production of critical chemicals, production of metal components for 155mm artillery munitions, and production of metal shipping containers. Moreover, we recognize the strategic importance of the BGAD as a vital element of the defense industrial base. Its unique capabilities in munitions handling and production are crucial for supporting U.S. military readiness. BGAD plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safe, efficient storage and transportation of critical defense materials, making it indispensable to the nation's defense infrastructure.

State and local law enforcement access to lifesaving Federal equipment

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1753) that would prohibit the limitation of the sale, donation, or transfer of property of the U.S. Government to state and local law enforcement agencies.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

*Statement of policy relating to reporting requirements of
China's Maritime Safety Administration*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1757) that would state that it is the policy of the United States to reject, as a violation of international law and United States sovereignty, any attempt by China's Maritime Safety Administration to compel United States vessels to adhere to any reporting requirements listed within China's Maritime Traffic Safety Law

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Strategy to improve activities related to counternarcotics and counter-transnational organized crime

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1745) that would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the commanders of the geographic combatant commands and the Secretary of State, to develop a strategy to improve for supporting law enforcement related to counternarcotics.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that elsewhere in this Act, we require the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an independent review, assessment, and analysis of the governance structure and strategy of the counter-narcotics and counter-transnational organized crime activities of the Department of Defense, and, upon receipt of that assessment, to provide the report to the congressional defense committees and congressional research agencies.

*Under Secretary of Defense for Policy study and report on
expansion of National Guard State Partnership Program*

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1739) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to assess expanding the National Guard State Partnership Program to additional countries in the First Island Chain and the Second Island Chain.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing, not later than April 1, 2025, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the feasibility and benefits of expanding the Department of Defense State Partnership Program to additional countries in the Western Pacific region, including Brunei, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Vanuatu, and any other country that the Secretary deems relevant.

United States-Israel cooperation on space matters

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1752) that would express the sense of Congress that the United States and Israel should continue civilian and defense cooperation on space matters.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We support cooperation between the United States and Israel on space matters including: between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Israel Space Agency; and between the United States Air Force and the Israeli Air Force's newly created Space Force in the areas of research, development, test, and evaluation.

United States-Israel emerging technology capabilities cooperation

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1764) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, upon request of the Ministry of Defense of Israel and in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, to carry out research, development, test, and evaluation, on a joint basis with Israel, in areas of emerging technologies capable of enabling the warfare capabilities of both the United States and Israel to meet emerging defense challenges.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that we have included a \$47.5 million increase elsewhere in this bill for research and development, test and evaluation, in the areas of emerging technologies capable of bolstering the capabilities of both the United States and Israel to meet emerging defense challenges, including in the areas of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, quantum and automation.

Working group on blockchain, smart contracts, and distributed ledger technologies

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1729) that would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, to establish a working group to be known as the "Blockchain-Distributed Ledger Technologies-Smart Contracts Defense Applications Working Group."

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

DIVISION B—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 2001 - Short title

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2001) that would cite division B of this Act as the "Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025".

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2001).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2002 - Expiration of authorizations and amounts required to be specified by law

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2002) that would ensure that the authorizations provided in titles XXI through XXVII of this Act expire on October 1, 2027, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2028, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2002).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2003 - Effective date

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2003) that would provide that titles XXI through XXVII of this Act would take effect on October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2003).

The agreement includes this provision.

TITLE XXI—ARMY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2101 - Authorized Army construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2101) that would contain a list of authorized Army construction projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2101).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2102 - Family housing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2102) that would authorize new construction, improvements, and planning and design of family housing units for the Army for fiscal year 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2102).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2103 - Authorization of appropriations, Army

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2103) that would authorize appropriations for Department of Army military construction levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2103).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2104 - Extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2018 project at Kunsan Air Base, Korea

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2104) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2018 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2104).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2105 - Extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2019 project at Mihail Kogalniceanu forward operating site, Romania

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2105) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2019 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2105).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2106 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2020 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2106) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2020 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2106).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2107 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2021 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2107) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2021 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2107).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2108 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2022 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2108) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2022 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2108).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Additional authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2025 project at McAlester Army Depot, Oklahoma

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2109) that would allow the Secretary of the Army to carry out a military construction project to construct an ammunition demolition facility at McAlester Army Depot, Oklahoma, using available, unobligated Army military construction funds appropriated for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2025 for the ammunition demolition facility.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note this project is authorized in section 2101 of this Act.

TITLE XXII—NAVY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2201 - Authorized Navy construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2201) that would contain a list of authorized Department of the Navy construction projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2201).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2202 - Family housing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2202) that would authorize new construction, improvements, and planning and design of family housing units for the Department of the Navy for fiscal year 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2202).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would modify the authorized amount for Navy family housing at Andersen Air Force Base.

Sec. 2203 - Authorization of Appropriations, Navy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2203) that would authorize appropriations for Department of Navy military construction levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2203).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2204 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2019 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2204) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2019 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2204).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2205 - Extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2020 project at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2205) that would extend the authorization of a certain fiscal year 2020 project until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2205).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2206 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2021 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2206) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2021 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2206).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2207 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2022 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2207) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2022 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2207).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Additional authority to carry out fiscal year 2025 project in Cooperative Security Location Comalapa, El Salvador

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2208) that allow the Secretary of the Navy to carry out a military construction project to construct a hangar and ramp expansion for Cooperative Security Location Comalapa, El Salvador, using available, unobligated Navy military construction funds appropriated for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2025.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We note this project is authorized in section 2201 of this Act.

TITLE XXIII—AIR FORCE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2301 - Authorized Air Force construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2301) that would contain a list of authorized Air Force construction projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2301).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2302 - Family housing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2302) that would authorize new construction, improvements, and planning and design of family housing units for the Department of the Air Force for fiscal year 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2302).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2303 - Authorization of appropriations, Air Force

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2303) that would authorize appropriations for Air Force military construction levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2303).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2304 - Extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2017 project at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2304) that would extend the authorization of a certain fiscal year 2017 project until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2304).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2305 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2018 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2305) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2018 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2305).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2306 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2019 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2306) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2019

projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2306).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2307 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2020 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2307) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2020 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2307).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would extend authorization for a project at Moody Air Force Base.

Sec. 2308 - Extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2021 project at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2308) that extend the authorization of a certain fiscal year 2021 project until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2308).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2309 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2022 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2309) that extends the authorization of certain fiscal year 2022 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2309).

The agreement includes this provision.

TITLE XXIV—DEFENSE AGENCIES MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2401 - Authorized Defense Agencies construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2401) that would contain a list of authorized defense agencies construction projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2401).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2402 - Authorized Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2402) that would contain a list of authorized energy resilience and conservation investment projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2402).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2403 - Authorization of appropriations, Defense Agencies

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2403) that would authorize appropriations for Defense Agencies' military construction at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2403).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2404 - Extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2018 project at Iwakuni, Japan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2404) that would extend the authorization of a certain fiscal year 2018 project until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2404).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2405 - Extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2019 project at Iwakuni, Japan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2405) that would extend the authorization of a certain fiscal year 2019 project until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2405).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2406 - Extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2020 project at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2406) that would extend the authorization of a certain fiscal year 2020 project until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2406).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2407 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2021 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2407) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2021 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2407).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2408 - Modification of authority to carry out fiscal year 2022 project at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, District of Columbia

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2408) that would modify the authorization of a fiscal year 2022 project.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2408).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2409 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2022 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2409) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2022 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2409).

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

TITLE XXV—INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

SUBTITLE A—NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT

Sec. 2501 - Authorized NATO construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2501) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to make contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program in an amount not to exceed the sum of the amount specifically authorized in section 2502 of this Act and the amount collected from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a result of construction previously financed by the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2501).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2502 - Authorization of appropriations, NATO

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2502) that would authorize appropriations for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2502).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2503 - Extension of use of authorized amounts for North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2503) that would amend section 2806(b) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize not more than 25 percent of the amount authorized in the previous fiscal year for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program (NSIP) should there be a lapse in authorization.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would authorize not more than 50 percent of the amount authorized in the previous year for NSIP should there be a lapse in authorization.

SUBTITLE B—HOST COUNTRY IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Sec. 2511 - Republic of Korea funded construction projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2511) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to accept military construction projects totaling \$418.6 million pursuant to agreement with the Republic of Korea for required in-kind contributions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2511).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2512 - Republic of Poland funded construction projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2512) that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to accept seven military construction projects totaling \$188.0 million pursuant to agreement with the Republic of Poland for required in-kind contributions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2512).

The agreement includes this provision.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Modification of contributions for projects executed by the United States under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2504) that would amend section 2350q(c) of title 10, United States Code, to ensure all financial recoupments from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP) projects pre-financed by the United States are credited to appropriations solely available for the NSIP.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Contributions for projects executed by host nations other than the United States under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2505) that would amend section 2350q of title 10, United States Code, to allow the United States to contribute funds to a project under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program (NSIP) for which it is not designated as the Host Nation, if the Secretary of Defense determines that completion of the project is in the national interest of the United States and provides a notification to the congressional defense committees at least 14 days prior to execution of the project with the justification for the project, the source of funds to be used, and the estimated cost of the project.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

**TITLE XXVI—GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES
FACILITIES**

Sec. 2601 - Authorized Army National Guard construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2601) that would contain the list of authorized Army National Guard construction projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2601).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2602 - Authorized Army Reserve construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2602) that would contain the list of authorized Army Reserve construction projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2602).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2603 - Authorized Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2603) that would contain the list of authorized Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve construction projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2603).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2604 - Authorized Air National Guard construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2604) that would contain the list of authorized Air National Guard construction projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2604).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2605 - Authorized Air Force Reserve construction and land acquisition projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2605) that would contain the list of authorized Air Force Reserve construction projects for fiscal year 2025. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2605).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2606 - Authorization of appropriations, National Guard and Reserve

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2606) that would authorize appropriations for National Guard and Reserve military construction at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2606).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2607 - Extension of authority to carry out fiscal year 2018 project at Hulman Regional Airport, Indiana

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2607) that would extend the authorization contained in section 2604 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Division B, Title XXVI, of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) for one project until October 1, 2025, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2608 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2020 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2607) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2020 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 2608).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 2609 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2021 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2608) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2021 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an

Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2609).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2610 - Extension of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2022 projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2610) that would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2022 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2610).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 2611 - Modification of authority to carry out fiscal year 2022 project

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2609) that would modify the authorization of a fiscal year 2022 project.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2611).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

TITLE XXVII—BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 2701 - Authorization of appropriations for base realignment and closure activities funded through Department of Defense base closure account

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2701) that would authorize appropriations for ongoing activities that are required to implement the Base Realignment and Closure activities authorized by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101-510), at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2701).

The agreement includes the House provision.

TITLE XXVIII—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Sec. 2801 - Modification of definition of military installation for purposes of notifications related to basing decision-making process

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2809) that would amend section 483(f)(4) of title 10, United States Code, to require the Department of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees when making all basing decisions, not just those in the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2802 - Expansion of eligible grant recipients under the Defense Community Infrastructure Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2804) that would clarify that not-for-profit member-owned utility services are eligible participants in the Defense Community Infrastructure Program as well as clarify that covered insular areas are eligible for the waiver of requirements for cost contribution under the program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would remove the definition of covered insular area. We note that a covered insular area is already included under rural areas.

Sec. 2803 - Process for strategic basing actions for the Department of the Air Force

The House bill contained provisions (sec. 2831 and sec. 2839A) that would codify the Air Force Strategic Basing process and prohibit the Secretary of the Air Force from making any basing decision during the resource allocation plan or program objective memorandum process of the Department of the Air Force.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2849).

The agreement includes the House provisions with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2804 - Inclusion of land acquisition and demolitions projects in authorized unspecified minor military construction project; temporary expansion of authority for purchase of certain land

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2801) that would amend section 2805(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, to ensure there is clear guidance that land acquisition is allowed using unspecified minor military construction funds.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2805 - Amendments to defense laboratory modernization program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2805) that would amend limits for the Defense Laboratory Modernization Program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment to maintain a limit for the Defense Laboratory Modernization Program.

Sec. 2806 - Annual five-year plans on improvement of Department of Defense innovation infrastructure

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2806) that would require each Secretary of a military department and the Secretary of Defense to submit, alongside the President's budget request, a 5-year plan for the improvement of laboratories, test and evaluation ranges, and other research, development, test, and evaluation infrastructure.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require just the first plan to be submitted as part of the annual budget submission to Congress.

Sec. 2807 - Modification of authority for Indo-Pacific posture unspecified minor military construction projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2808) that would increase the minor military construction authority for the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, provided by section 2810

of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2804).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2808 - Extension of prohibition on joint use of Homestead Air Reserve Base with civil aviation

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2851) that would extend the prohibition on the joint use of Homestead Air Reserve Base with civil aviation until September 30, 2036.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2848).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2809 - Information on military construction projects and repair projects at joint bases

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2812) that would require, for the next 6 fiscal years, the Secretary of each military department to submit to the congressional defense committees a prioritized list of military construction projects, including facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization projects, for each joint base under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2810 - Notification to Congress of reprogramming involving military construction funds

The agreement includes a provision that would require the Secretary of Defense to notify the congressional defense committees of any reprogramming of funds made available for military construction not later than 14 days after the date of such reprogramming.

Sec. 2811 - Obligation and execution of design funds for military construction projects

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2808) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the construction agent in charge of a military construction project enters into a contract within 90 days.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the construction agent in charge of a military construction project enters into a contract within 150 days and submits a notification to the congressional defense committees.

Sec. 2812 - Schedule of repairs at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2852) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to develop and implement a plan for repair or replacement of facilities at Naval Air Station Pensacola damaged by Hurricane Sally.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require a plan, strike the funding limitation, and require biannual briefings on the status of repair or replacement of facilities.

SUBTITLE B—MILITARY HOUSING REFORMS

Sec. 2821 - Budget justification for certain Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1821) that would require each military department to include information accompanying the annual budget request related to the requirements for facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization (FSRM) at unaccompanied housing facilities as well as information on prior expenditures for FSRM.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would clarify the definition to include repair projects.

Sec. 2822 - Strategy and assessment with respect to non-operational, underutilized, and other Department of Defense facilities: assessments of historic significance

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2836) that would require each Secretary of a military department to develop a strategy for the demolition of facilities on military installations, within their jurisdiction, that are in poor or

failing condition, not in operational use, or determined by the Secretary to be underutilized.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2823 - Application of certain authorities and standards to historic military housing and associated historic properties of the Department of the Army

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2852) that would amend subchapter II of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new section to specify the treatment of historic housing and associated historic properties of the Department of the Army.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2824 - Extension of applicability for waivers of covered privacy and configuration standards for covered military unaccompanied housing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2821) that would extend the applicability of waivers under section 2856a of title 10, United States Code, from 9 months to 18 months.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would extend to 15 months.

Sec. 2825 - Additional requirements for database of complaints made regarding housing units of Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2822) that would amend section 2894a of title 10, United States Code, to direct the Department of Defense to create a tool for servicemembers and their families to compare and rate military housing options in order to provide transparency on living conditions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment and a sunset in 3 years.

Sec. 2826 - Digital system for submission of maintenance work order requests for covered military unaccompanied housing required

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1824) that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop and issue guidance for the establishment of digital systems for servicemembers living in covered military unaccompanied housing to submit maintenance requests for their respective covered military unaccompanied housing facility.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would amend section 2837 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (P.L. 118-31) to include a digital system for servicemembers to submit work order maintenance requests.

Sec. 2827 - Modification to definition of privatized military housing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2823) that would clarify that the definition of privatized military housing in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) does not include Government-owned housing.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would clarify that the definition includes Government-controlled housing as well.

Sec. 2828 - Analysis of housing availability for critical civilian and contractor personnel near rural military installations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2824) that would require the Secretary of Defense to revise the Department of Defense Manual for Housing Management to require availability analysis of suitable housing for civilian personnel and defense contractors in rural locations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would clarify the term "rural area."

Sec. 2829 - Digital facilities management systems for military departments

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1825) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment to develop criteria for a digital facilities management system to track sustainment and modernization expenditure by facility as well as overall facility condition.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2830 - Strategy for use of existing leasing authorities to address shortages of covered military unaccompanied housing required

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1822) that would require a strategy on the use of existing real property leasing authorities to address needs for covered military unaccompanied housing and authorize appropriations for those potential leasing actions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would include operation and maintenance as required elements to the strategy.

Sec. 2831 - Independent assessment of estimated costs of certain strategies to address shortages of covered military unaccompanied housing

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1823) that would require an independent assessment of the lifecycle costs for building and sustaining covered military unaccompanied housing compared to the cost of alternative options including basic allowance for housing payments.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

SUBTITLE C—REAL PROPERTY AND FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 2841 - Minimum capital investment for facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2815) that would require the Secretaries of the military departments to invest in the budget for facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization for their respective military department at least 4 percent of the plant replacement value for the total inventory of all facilities owned and maintained by the military department by fiscal year 2029 and in each subsequent fiscal year.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2842 - Assistance for public infrastructure projects and services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2802) that would amend section 2391 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation to make grants to state, local, or regional government organizations to support industrial base resilience and workforce development efforts.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2850).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2843 - Contracts for design and construction of facilities of Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2807) that would amend chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, to allow the head of a department or organization within the Department of Defense to place an order, on a reimbursable basis, with any other such department or organization for a maintenance and repair project of a facility of the Department of Defense, or for a minor military construction project.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2844 - Industrial plant equipment and associated services as in-kind consideration under leases of non-excess property

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2806) that would amend section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, to allow industrial plant equipment and associated services to be added to the existing list of in-kind

consideration for leased locations of non-excess property of the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2845 - Inclusion of tribal governments in intergovernmental support agreements for installation-support services

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2832) that would authorize the Department of Defense to enter into intergovernmental support agreements with Tribal governments.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2846 - Temporary modification to authority to charge landing fees for the use by civil aircraft of military airfields

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 343) that would require the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report on landing fees collected at Air Force installation locations outside the continental United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would grant a 2 year temporary authority to amend section 2697 of title 10, United States Code, to allow the Secretary concerned to accept commercial airline landing fees at overseas locations.

Sec. 2847 - Stormwater management, shoreline erosion control, and water resilience projects for installations and defense access roads

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2807) that would authorize the modification of the stormwater reuse program to minimize runoff of untreated water and designate an official responsible for coordinating regional stormwater management among military departments.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2841).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

We note that the intent is to have a single official within the Department of Defense be responsible for the purposes of this provision. However, we note that nothing in this provision prevents the Department from selecting officials as it deems appropriate.

Sec. 2848 - Pilot program to optimize and consolidate Department of Defense facilities to improve health and resiliency in defense communities

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2811) that would establish a temporary pilot program to optimize and consolidate Army facilities for resilient and healthy defense communities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with multiple clarifying and technical amendments.

Sec. 2849 - Guidance regarding maintenance of aggregate square footage of facilities of Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2810) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue guidance ensuring that every square footage of new growth of a Department of Defense building is offset with an equivalent reduction in square footage, unless facilities are identified to be entered into a contingency operational status.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2850 - Expenditures on leased facilities and real property of the Department of Defense

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2838) that would require the Department of Defense to decrease expenditures on leased facilities in the National Capital Region by 50 percent over the next 10 years.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would require the Department of Defense to decrease expenditures on leased facilities across the entire Department by 25 percent over the next 5 years along with a briefing requirement.

SUBTITLE D—LAND CONVEYANCES

Sec. 2851 - Extension of expanded authority to convey property at military installations

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2802) that would amend section 2869(a)(3) of title 10, United States Code, to extend the land exchange pilot authority enacted by the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) for an additional 3 years.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2852 - Technical correction to map reference in the Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2839B) that would section 2989(a)(2) of the Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-66) by striking November 30, 2022, and inserting May 22, 2024.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2854).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2853 - Land conveyance, Boyle Memorial Army Reserve Center, Paris, Texas

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2841) that would grant permissive authority to the Secretary of the Army to convey to the Paris Junior College located in Paris, Texas, approximately 4 acres, known as the Boyle Memorial Army Reserve Center.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2854 - Land conveyance, Riverdale Park, Maryland

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2842) that would authorize the Secretary of the Army to convey 6.63 acres in Riverdale Park, Maryland, to the town of Riverdale Park for the purpose of creating a new municipal and community center.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2855 - Transfer authority, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2843) that would authorize the expedited cleanup and transfer of Department

of Defense lands at former Mare Island Naval Shipyard to the city of Vallejo, California.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would modify the authorized transfer to include a requirement for the concurrence of the city of Vallejo and include a savings clause.

Sec. 2856 - Release of interests retained in Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2844) that would allow the Secretary of the Army to release the terms and conditions of a previous conveyance associated with approximately 241.33 acres at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2834).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 2857 - Land conveyance, Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, Arizona

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2845) that would authorize the Secretary of the Army to convey approximately 203 acres on Fort Huachuca to the city of Sierra Vista, Arizona.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2833).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2858 - Removal of certain conditions regarding conveyance of former Army-Navy General Hospital, Hot Springs National Park, Hot Springs, Arkansas, to the State of Arkansas

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2846) that would allow any revisionary interest retained by the United States in the real property conveyed by the Deed of Conveyance pursuant to Public Law 86-323 to be extinguished if certain conditions are met.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2835).

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2859 - Land conveyance and authorization for interim lease, Defense Fuel Support Point San Pedro, Los Angeles, California

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2847) that would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to convey land located at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, Defense Fuel Support Point, San Pedro, California, to the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita for the purposes using such conveyed parcel of real property for park and recreational activities or law enforcement affiliated purposes.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would include a clause on fair market value.

Sec. 2860 - Land conveyance, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2831) that would authorize the Secretary of the Army to convey approximately 65.3 acres currently located at Fort Bliss, Texas, to El Paso Water of El Paso Public Service Board, for the purposes of stormwater flood control for Fort Bliss and the neighboring community.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment that would clarify the in-kind consideration clause.

Sec. 2861 - Cleanup and transfer of certain property at former Army installation to East Bay Regional Park District

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2832) that would require the Secretary of the Army to complete a remedial investigation or feasibility study for approximately 15 acres of property at the former Oakland, California, military installation shoreline.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2862 - Coordination of repair and maintenance of Kolekole Pass, Hawaii

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2842) that would require the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy to coordinate on a plan for the repair and maintenance for Kolekole Pass to ensure that it may be used for

emergency egress by both military and civilian personnel in the event of a wildfire or other emergency.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

SUBTITLE E—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 2871- Consideration of installation infrastructure and other supporting resources by Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2843) that would amend section 4713 of title 10, United States Code, to add to the duties of the Director of the Test Resource Management Center the ability to review installation infrastructure supporting major test assets.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2872 - Development and operation of the Naval Innovation Center at the Naval Postgraduate School

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2801) that would allow the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract or other agreements with nonprofit organizations for the design, construction, and maintenance of a facility to serve as the Naval Innovation Center at the United States Naval Postgraduate School.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would include a definition for the term "covered entity" for the purposes of this provision.

Sec. 2873 - Extension of Department of the Army pilot program for development and use of online real estate inventory tool

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2844) that would amend section 2866(h) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Army to conduct the pilot program for an online real estate inventory tool through September 30, 2026.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 2874 - Notification to Members of Congress for awards of contracts for military construction projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2809) that would require a notification to Members of Congress on military construction contract awards in their district or contracts awarded to a constituent company.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2875 - Authorization of assistance to expedite certain military construction projects located in Guam

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2863) that would allow each Secretary of a military department to provide grants, conclude cooperative agreements, and supplement other Federal funds to regulatory agencies located in Guam in order to expedite military construction projects in Guam intended to improve the defense of Guam and the Indo-Pacific region.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 2876 - Report on munitions and explosives of concern and construction projects in Joint Region Marianas

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2855) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a survey of military installations on Guam to characterize areas by risk of containing munitions of explosive concern.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 2813).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 2877 - Review of roles and responsibilities for construction projects of Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2845) that would require the Secretary of Defense to seek to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to review the roles and responsibilities for executing construction projects for the Department of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2878 - Assessment of public schools on installations of Department of Defense

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2846) that would amend section 2814 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) as amended by section 2818 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) and section 2824 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232) to increase the number of certain priority-funded public school projects from 38 to 71.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would direct the Comptroller General of the United States to examine issues related to the Public Schools on Military Installations program to include operations, oversight, funding, and criteria for selecting and prioritizing schools.

Sec. 2879 - Updates to policies and guidance of the Department of the Navy for the replacement of certain dry docks and other projects

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2814) that would require the Secretary of the Navy to coordinate with the Comptroller General of the United States regarding best practices on cost estimating and lessons learned to avoid future cost increases for naval shipyard military construction projects.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 2880 - Designation of officials responsible for coordination of infrastructure projects to support additional members of the Armed Forces and their families in the Indo-Pacific region

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2853) that would require the Secretary of Defense to designate one official to be responsible for the coordination of infrastructure projects to support additional servicemembers and

their families in Hawaii and one official to be responsible for the same duties in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to designate existing officials within the Department of Defense.

Sec. 2881 - Limitation on availability of funds until submission of interim guidance for Department of Defense-wide standards for access to military installations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2833) that would standardize military installation access standards at military installations in the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Temporary biennial report on quality and condition of covered military unaccompanied housing located outside the United States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1826) that would require a biennial report on the conditions of covered military unaccompanied housing facilities located outside of the United States.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the reporting elements in the House provision are already covered by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

Housing accommodations for military families on housing waitlists

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1827) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents who, when undergoing a permanent change of station, are placed on a waitlist for on-base housing for a period of more than 10 days following the date of arrival at the new location, temporary accommodations for the entire duration of such period appropriate for the total size and composition of the family of the member and at a rate

not to exceed the basic allowance for housing calculated for such member.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that housing shortages across the continental United States continue to impact servicemembers and their families. We also note that the Department of Defense is working to alleviate shortages, including by implementing changes to the Joint Travel Regulations regarding Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE). TLE is a partial reimbursement for lodging and meals when a service member and their family occupy temporary lodging during a permanent change of station. The changes include increasing the standard number of days TLE may be authorized from 10 to 14 days when moving to a permanent duty station (PDS) in the United States and from 5 to 7 days when moving to a PDS outside of the continental United States. The changes also allow for installations, bases, or commands to request an additional authorization of a TLE extension where shortages persist past 14 days in the continental United States. We will continue to monitor the impact of increased TLE on alleviating housing shortages for servicemembers and their families.

Department of Defense plan to construct memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in commemoration of members of the Armed Forces killed in certain attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1852) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a plan and strategy to construct a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia to commemorate the members of the Armed Forces killed in the attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on August of 2021.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, no later than May 1, 2025, on the plan to construct a memorial to commemorate the thirteen members of the Armed Forces killed in the attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, in August of 2021. We note that section 1084 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) required the Secretary of Defense to establish a commemorative work of this nature.

Military base reuse studies and community planning assistance

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2803) that would include Coast Guard installations in military base reuse studies and Secretary of Defense community assistance.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Assessment of workforce needs in the Freely Associated States to support future military construction

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2810) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment to conduct a study on the workforce needs in the Freely Associated States (FAS) to support future military construction.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than June 1, 2025, on the planned military major and minor construction in the FAS over the next 5 years. The briefing shall include an assessment of the ability of the local workforce in the FAS to support future military construction and options for the Department of Defense to cooperate with the Department of Labor, the Department of the Interior, and the FAS to develop plans to help address any construction workforce shortages.

Limitation on availability of funds for certain Department of Defense travel until establishment of certain complaint database

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2825) that would limit the expenditure of Secretary of Defense travel funds until the implementation of the complaint database required by section 2894 of title 10, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Department has implemented the requisite complaint database.

Deferral of execution of certain requirements for covered housing facilities and covered landscape features; report

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2834) that would delay requirements for the Secretary of each military department under chapter 3061 of title 54, United States Code, for facilities or landscape features built after 1975.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Pilot programs of Department of Army and Department of Navy to conduct repair and maintenance projects on covered historic facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2835) that would require the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy to carry out a pilot program for the repair and maintenance of facilities on an installation built prior to 1919, within their jurisdiction, by adhering to Department of Interior guidance for such activities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Temporary authority for use of imitative substitute building materials for maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, or renovation of covered historic facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2837) that would allow each Secretary of a military department to use imitative substitute materials in the maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, or renovation of facilities, within their jurisdiction, built prior to 1919.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Screening and registry of individuals with health conditions resulting from unsafe housing units

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2839) that would amend chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new section that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that all military medical treatment facilities screen eligible individuals for health conditions resulting from unsafe housing units.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Joint Explanatory Statement to accompany the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Committee Print No. 2) required the Secretaries of the military departments to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on their respective services' processes for screening and monitoring individuals who may have experienced unsafe housing conditions. The briefings have been received by the committees.

Research, standards, and other requirements relating to indoor residential mold

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2839C) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a comprehensive study of the health effects of indoor residential mold growth in barracks or other housing on military installations, using the most up-to-date scientific peer-reviewed medical literature.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Study on construction of child development centers

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2839D) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a recommendation for a strategy for military construction projects for a sufficient number of child development centers (CDCs) as necessary to eliminate wait lists for members of the Armed Forces seeking childcare at such CDCs.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Department of Defense has made progress related to CDCs in the prioritization of military construction project budget requests. However, we note that there is still significant room for improvement, as many more CDCs are necessary to eliminate wait lists for servicemembers and their families seeking childcare at such facilities.

Modification of requirements

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2853) that would extend a limitation on the obligation and expenditure of funds authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense to acquire, construct, plan, or design a new headquarters building for United States Space Command until the

Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the Comptroller General of the United States provide the report required by section 2889 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Department of Defense policy relating to contractors for military construction projects

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2854) that would require the Secretary of Defense to issue a policy that the Secretary of a military department shall consider contractor and subcontractor proximity when awarding contracts for military construction.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Market survey of domestic suppliers of sand and gravel for marine concrete

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2856) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a market survey of domestic sources for sand and gravel inputs for marine concrete needed for military construction projects in the Indo-Pacific area.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Survey of certain counties for placement of facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2857) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide the results of a survey of certain counties in North Carolina to assess potential placement of operational, training, or other facilities for use by the military departments in such counties.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Study on certain grants awarded to support investments in certain child care facilities under the defense community infrastructure program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2858) that would require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a study on each grant awarded under the Defense Community Infrastructure Program for supporting investments in child care facilities in areas in close proximity to military installations.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Requirement to maintain access to category 3 subterranean training facility

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2859) that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the Department of Defense maintains access to a covered category 3 subterranean training facility on a continuing basis.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 1055).

The agreement does not include either provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the plans, policies, and doctrine of the Department of Defense regarding subterranean operations. At a minimum, the required report shall:

- (1) Define the roles and responsibilities of each military service and combatant command;
- (2) Describe the current and planned Department of Defense capabilities for conducting subterranean operations and identify any gaps in such capabilities;
- (3) Identify all related doctrine and plans, if any, to update such doctrine;
- (4) Identify subterranean training facility requirements;
- (5) Define adversary activities and intentions in the subterranean environment;
- (6) Outline adversary and ally subterranean defeat capabilities and tactics; and
- (7) Evaluate roles and responsibilities across the spectrum of conflict and for targets ranging in size and complexity, such as trenches, tunnels, bunkers, silos, underground command nodes, underground weapons depots, and underground research and developmental facilities.

Quarterly report on infiltrations of certain Department of Defense property by foreign actors

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2860) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report on instances of infiltration, or attempted infiltration, of a military installation, facility, or real property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense by a foreign actor during the period covered by the report.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the reporting requirement appears elsewhere in this Act.

Designation of Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, as remote or isolated installation

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2861) that would require the Secretary of Defense to designate Creech Air Force Base, located at Indian Springs, Nevada, as a remote or isolated installation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that the Department of Defense has provided relevant congressional reporting on this topic.

Feasibility study by the Secretary of Defense on replicating the Army Future Soldier Prep Course through the other service branches

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2862) that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a feasibility study on replicating the Army's Future Soldier Preparatory Course in other service branches.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We note that section 546 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) required the Secretaries of the military departments to implement future servicemember preparatory courses in the event that the number of nonprior service enlisted personnel covered under section 520 of title 10, United States Code, exceeds 10 percent of the total number of persons originally enlisted in an Armed Force during a fiscal year.

Briefing on instances of attempted breaches of Department of Defense military installations required

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2864) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on any instance of an attempted breach of a military installation under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense during the period beginning on January 1, 2021, and ending on the date of the provision of such briefing.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include House provision.

We note that the briefing requirement appears elsewhere in this Act.

Report on land use practices around military installations in the Freely Associated States

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2865) that would require the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment to submit a report on the use of land use policies and encroachment risks near military installations located in the Freely Associated States (FAS).

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, with an assessment of land use policies and encroachment risks near military installations located in the FAS over the next 5 years. The briefing shall include an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of establishing a coalition to include representatives from Federal agencies, the governments of the FAS, nongovernmental organizations, and landowners and land managers in the FAS to advance sustainable land use practices around military installations that would assist in efforts to prevent encroachment and promote conservation.

Authority to accept host nation financial services in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2803) that would amend section 2350g(a) of title 10, United States Code, to provide an additional authority to the Department of Defense to accept host nation contributions for military construction projects through a financial services vehicle whereby the host nation establishes and controls an irrevocable letter of credit with a financial institution.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Requirement that damaged or destroyed facilities are built back with resilience

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2805) that would amend section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, to ensure that any military construction project to repair, restore, or replace a damaged or destroyed facility is designed and constructed to prevent future damage or destruction by the proximate cause of the damage or destruction of the facility.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Increase in percentage limitations on value of United States investment in privatized military housing projects

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2821) that would amend section 2875 of title 10, United States Code, to increase to 60 percent each of the two current limitations under subsection (c) of that section on the amount of Government investment in Military Housing Privatization Initiative projects.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Treatment of nondisclosure agreements with respect to privatized military housing

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2822) that would amend section 2890(f) of title 10, United States Code, to prohibit a landlord from requesting that a tenant or prospective tenant of a privatized housing unit sign a nondisclosure agreement.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Report on use of areawide contracts to procure utility services

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2847) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on what projects, to include any savings or mission capabilities, have been conducted pursuant to section 2811(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than March 1, 2025, on what projects have been conducted pursuant to section 2811(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31). The briefing shall include, at a minimum, disaggregated by location, an identification of any projects conducted to date and any savings, improvements to mission readiness, or energy resilience benefits to the Department of Defense as a result of areawide contracts to date.

Briefing on projects under Defense Community Infrastructure Program that are still in progress

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2851) that would amend section 2391(d) of title 10, United States Code, to include annual briefings for the next 3 years, beginning not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, regarding Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) projects for which a grant was awarded and that are still in progress as of the date of the briefing.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

We are concerned that the current definition of military value as it has been applied to the analysis of DCIP proposals has led to a more narrow application of the program than originally intended, causing challenges for the DCIP review boards, military services, and DCIP applicants. Authorized in section 2861 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232), DCIP was intended to be a competitive authority to assist in supplementing funds for State and local governments in addressing deficiencies in community infrastructure. Due to the limitations associated with the military value requirements and funding constraints, important, high-value projects that meet other DCIP criteria often go unfunded. We direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives, no later than March 31, 2025, on: (1) The number of repeat applicants DCIP has seen since 2020; (2) The number of applicants who did not meet the military value requirements since 2020; (3) The methodology by which the military value criteria has been applied to DCIP applicants; and (4) Any other challenges that DCIP has identified in regard to the military value criteria, and any recommendations for adjustments to improve the process.

Expansion of defense community infrastructure pilot program to include installations of the Coast Guard

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2856) that would amend section 2391 of title 10, United States Code, to allow the United States Coast Guard to compete for funding available through the Defense Community Infrastructure Program.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Modification of annual report on privatized military housing

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 7823) that would modify the annual report on privatized military housing by requiring the Secretary of Defense to publish the report on a publicly available website of the Department of Defense not later than 30 days after submitting a report.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

TITLE XXIX—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION DISASTER RECOVERY

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Authorized Navy disaster recovery construction and land acquisition projects

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2901) that would authorize Navy disaster recovery construction and land acquisition projects in Guam for \$4.6 billion.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Authorization of emergency supplemental appropriations for military construction projects

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2903) that would authorize emergency supplemental appropriations pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Authorized Air Force disaster recovery construction and land acquisition projects

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 2902) that would authorize Air Force disaster recovery construction and land acquisition projects in Guam for \$7.2 billion.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

**DIVISION C—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORIZATIONS
AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS**

**TITLE XXXI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL
SECURITY PROGRAMS**

**SUBTITLE A—NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS AND
AUTHORIZATIONS**

Sec. 3101 - National Nuclear Security Administration

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3101) that would authorize the appropriation of funds for the activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 3101).

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 3102 - Defense environmental cleanup

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3102) that would authorize the appropriation of funds for the Department of Energy's defense environmental cleanup activities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 3102).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 3103 - Other defense activities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3103) that would authorize the appropriation of funds for the Department of Energy's other defense activities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 3103).

The agreement includes this provision.

Sec. 3104 - Nuclear energy

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3104) that would authorize the appropriation of funds for the Department of Energy's nuclear energy activities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 3104).

The agreement includes this provision.

SUBTITLE B—PROGRAM AUTHORIZATIONS, RESTRICTIONS, AND LIMITATIONS

Sec. 3111 - Improvements to National Nuclear Security Administration management and processes

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3113) that would amend the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2401) and the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Nuclear Security Administration to meet strategic requirements.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would make technical and conforming changes.

Sec. 3112 - Prohibition on admittance to national security laboratories and nuclear weapons production facilities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3111) that would prohibit any citizen or agent of the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation from admittance into non-public areas of the national security laboratories or nuclear weapons production facilities, but would also authorize the Secretary of Energy to waive this prohibition on certain conditions.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 3120).

The agreement includes the Senate provision with amendments to delineate the classes of individuals exempted from the prohibitions on access; clarify that certain facilities and

portions of facilities that conduct activities to support both national security and basic research programs and are funded through multiple Department of Energy organizations, such as the National Ignition Facility and the Micro and Nano Technologies Laboratories, may be partitioned in the determination of what areas directly support the mission, functions, and operations of the National Nuclear Security Administration; and defer implementation of the provision until April 15, 2025.

Sec. 3113 - Authority for National Nuclear Security Administration to use passenger carriers for contractor commuting

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3117) that would authorize the Administrator for Nuclear Security to reimburse contractors for transportation services pursuant to an approved transportation plan.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 3114 - Authorization for modification of B61-13 nuclear weapon

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3112) that would authorize modification or development of the B61-13 nuclear gravity bomb and a variation of the W80 nuclear weapon for the nuclear-armed, sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM-N); and require the Secretary of Energy to provide final nomenclature for the SLCM-N weapon, temporarily designated as the "W80-X."

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would authorize only modification or development of the B61-13 nuclear gravity bomb.

We note that the warhead for SLCM-N is addressed elsewhere in this agreement.

Sec. 3115 - Limitation on availability of funds pending submission of information on streamlining National Nuclear Security Administration contracting

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3118) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of more than 80 percent of certain funds authorized for travel expenses for the Administrator for Nuclear Security for fiscal year 2025 until the Administrator provides a required report on

opportunities to streamline National Nuclear Security Administration requirements.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would adjust the limitation to not more than 90 percent of specified funds.

Sec. 3116 - Limitation on use of funds for naval nuclear fuel systems based on low-enriched uranium

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3111) that would prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2025 for the purpose of conducting research and development of an advanced naval nuclear fuel system based on low-enriched uranium until the Secretary of Energy, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of the Navy issue certain determinations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would make technical changes.

Sec. 3117 - Prohibition on availability of funds to reconvert or retire W76-2 warheads

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3112) that would prohibit the National Nuclear Security Administration from reconverting or retiring W76-2 warheads; but provide a waiver on condition that the Administrator for Nuclear Security certifies that the People's Republic of China and Russian Federation do not possess similar capabilities and that the Department of Defense does not have a valid military requirement for the W76-2 warhead.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE C—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 3121 - Modification to and termination of certain reporting requirements under Atomic Energy Defense Act

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3121) that would amend section 4306 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2566(a)(3)) to revise Department of Energy reporting requirements relating to the use of the Mixed Oxide Fuel

Fabrication Facility in South Carolina to process defense plutonium and related materials for disposal.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment to require the Secretary of Energy to provide a biennial plan for the processing of defense plutonium and related materials for disposal in each subsequent even numbered year following 2026.

We note that the adjustment to the reporting requirement in no way affects, nor implies any modification to the obligations or responsibilities of the parties named in the Settlement Agreement between the United States of America and the State of South Carolina regarding the disposition of weapons-usable plutonium at the Savannah River Site (Fed. Cir. No. 19-2324), dated August 28, 2020.

Sec. 3122 - Modification of reporting requirements relating to cost-benefit analyses for competition of management and operating contracts

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3116) that would amend section 4807 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (Public Law 83-703) to modify a reporting requirement for the Comptroller General of the United States to provide additional flexibility for reviews of certain National Nuclear Security Administration contracts.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 3123 - Restoration of a domestic uranium enrichment capability

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3114) that would require the Secretary of Energy to identify and assess the viability of at least two, but not more than four, possible locations that would be best suited for a modular, scalable uranium enrichment facility by 2035; and provide a report on the results of this assessment including cost estimates for starting construction in 2027.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 3124 - Report on activities from U.S.-U.K. Mutual Defense Agreement

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3115) that would require the Administrator for Nuclear Security to provide an annual briefing, for each of the subsequent 5 years, on activities conducted under the 1958 Mutual Defense Agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 3125 - Notification of certain regulations that impact the National Nuclear Security Administration

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3121) that would require a director of a national security laboratory of the National Nuclear Security Administration to notify Congress when the director determines that certain regulations could inhibit nuclear weapons stockpile activities.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Designation of National Nuclear Security Administration as technical nuclear forensics lead

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3113) that would amend the National Nuclear Security Administration Act to add leadership of the technical nuclear forensics efforts of the United States to the list of the National Nuclear Security Administration's responsibilities.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We continue to believe that the National Nuclear Security Administration should be the interagency lead for nuclear forensics, consistent with the Joint Explanatory Statement to Accompany the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Committee Print No. 2) regarding the House provision (sec. 3122) titled "Designation of National Nuclear Security Administration as technical nuclear forensics lead."

List of potential advanced nuclear technology deployment opportunities

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3122) that would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a list of at

least 30 potential opportunities to deploy advanced nuclear technology to bolster the operational energy, installation energy, and expeditionary energy capabilities of the Department of Defense.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

Sense of Congress regarding development of storage facilities for permanent storage of nuclear material within the Great Lakes Basin

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3123) that would express the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada should not develop storage facilities for the permanent storage of nuclear waste within the Great Lakes Basin.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We discourage the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada from developing storage facilities for permanent storage of spent nuclear fuel, low-level or high-level nuclear waste, or military-grade nuclear material within the Great Lakes Basin.

Sense of Congress on commitment to nuclear power

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3124) that would express the sense of Congress regarding a commitment to nuclear power.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We strongly encourage the Department of Defense to pursue nuclear power as an option for baseload energy sources in order to achieve a reliable, secure, and resilient energy source for the Department's military installations.

Sense of Congress supporting Project Pele

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3125) that would express a sense of Congress supporting Project Pele.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the House provision.

We believe Project Pele has the potential to bolster the national security of the United States by providing reliable, resilient, and clean baseload energy for military bases and operations domestically and abroad. We note a \$16.2 million increase for Project Pele in the funding authorization tables of this bill, over and above the program funding contained in the President's budget request, and note that this level of support is consistent with that contained in past National Defense Authorization Acts.

Limitation on availability of funds pending submission of certification relating to W80-4 Alteration-SLCM

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3119) that would limit the obligation and expenditure of more than 50 percent of certain funds authorized for travel expenses for the Administrator of Nuclear Security for fiscal year 2025 until the Administrator provides a report on the development of a nuclear-capable, sea-launched cruise missile and a spend plan for the development of such a weapon pursuant to section 306 of division D of title III of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Authorization of Department of Defense and contractors to acquire and operate a utilization facility

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 3122) that would authorize the Department of Defense to acquire and operate a utilization facility and require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report and briefing on matters related to nuclear power reactors.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Approval of the amendment to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 8111) that would approve of the amendment to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for

Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

TITLE XXXII—DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Sec. 3201 - Authorization

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3201) that would authorize \$47.2 million for the operation of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained an identical provision (sec. 3201).

The agreement includes this provision.

TITLE XXXIV—NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES

Sec. 3401 - Authorization of appropriations

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3401) that would authorize \$13.0 million for fiscal year 2025 for operation and maintenance of the Naval Petroleum Reserves.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

TITLE XXXV—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

SUBTITLE A—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 3501 - Authorization of appropriations for Maritime Administration

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3501) that would authorize funds for the Maritime Administration.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 3501).

The agreement includes the House provision with an amendment that would:

(1) Add \$3.0 million for training, staffing, retention, recruiting, and contract management for United States Merchant Marine Academy capital improvement projects;

(2) Add \$6.0 million for maintenance and repair of State maritime academy training vessels; and

(3) Authorize \$33.7 million for the loan guarantee program authorized under chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code in lieu of the \$43.0 million in the budget request.

Sec. 3502 - Reauthorization of Maritime Security Program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3502) that would: (1) Reauthorize the Maritime Security Program (MSP); (2) Extend the sunset date for MSP until 2040; and (3) Increase the annual vessel stipend.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

SUBTITLE B—MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

Sec. 3511 - Port infrastructure development program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3511) that would extend the eligibility of cruise vessels to receive grants to fund shore power projects under the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) through fiscal year 2026, direct the Maritime Administration (MARAD) to update its categorical exclusions, require an extension of the PIDP application deadline when an amended notice of funding opportunity is published, emphasize the efficient approval of PIDP grant contracts, and create a reporting requirement on staffing shortages at MARAD and the Department of Transportation impacting the administration of PIDP.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with technical amendments.

Sec. 3512 - Assessment of United States sealift capability

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3512) that would codify and articulate a policy for strategic sealift readiness and the maritime sector. This section would also require an assessment of maritime infrastructure readiness as well as reports and briefings about shipbuilding and the maritime sector.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, amended to make minor technical changes.

SUBTITLE C—REPORTS

Sec. 3521 - Independent study and report on Shanghai Shipping Exchange

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3521) that would require an independent study and report on the business practices of the Shanghai Shipping Exchange and the impacts of the Exchange's operations on United States interests.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, amended to include the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees as recipients of the report.

Sec. 3522 - Study on transportation of personal protective equipment

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3522) that would require the Secretary of Transportation: (1) In coordination with the Secretary of Defense and in consultation with the head of each relevant Federal agency, to conduct a study on the movement of critical cargo through marine terminals and ports; and (2) Issue a request for information in the Federal Register seeking public comment on the matters to be considered in the study.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement would delete the direction to study marine terminal shipment of cargos in the House provision. We agree instead to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on transportation of personal protective equipment for health care during the pandemic.

SUBTITLE D—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 3531 - Extension of certain provisions relating to Tanker Security Fleet program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3531) that would extend the sunset for authorization of the Tanker Security Program from 2035 until 2040.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, amended to include authorization amounts for the program.

Sec. 3532 - Requirements for purchasing federally auctioned vessels

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3532) that would set several requirements for potential purchasers of Government-owned vessels being auctioned by the Federal Government.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 3533 - Recapitalization of National Defense Reserve Fleet

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3533) that would make technical changes to section 3546 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) to clarify that the Secretary of the Navy shall support the Secretary of the Transportation in construction of a new sealift program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, amended to require that the Secretary of Transportation manage the sealift recapitalization program in consultation with the Secretary of the Navy.

Sec. 3534 - Armed Forces merchant mariner officer expedited preparation program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3534) that would authorize an honorably discharged veteran who holds a bachelor's degree to enroll in a state maritime academy and complete a merchant marine officer preparation program approved by the Secretary of Transportation and complete the requirements for the issuance of a license in less than 3 years.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a technical amendment.

Sec. 3535 - Technical clarifications

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3535) that would make several technical clarifications to United States Code and previously enacted legislation.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision.

Sec. 3536 - Buy America requirements for shipyard modernization and improvement program

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3537) that would amend section 53733 of title 46, United States Code, to add a Buy America requirement to the shipyard modernization and improvement program.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with technical amendments.

Sec. 3537 - Nomination of Merchant Marine cadets in event of death, resignation, or expulsion from office of Member of Congress otherwise authorized to nominate

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6044) that would amend chapter 513 of title 46, United States Code, to establish a processes for nomination of merchant marines in the event of death, resignation, or expulsion from office of a Member of Congress otherwise authorized to nominate.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment that would limit the authority to the Senate.

Sec. 3538 - Amended license applications for certain deepwater ports for natural gas

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 3538) that would make corrections to chapters 537 and 541 of title 46, United States Code.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision, amended to include modifications to the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1504(i)) regarding amended license applications for operating natural gas deepwater port facility.

DIVISION D—FUNDING TABLES

Sec. 4001 - Authorization of amounts in funding tables

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 4001) that would provide for the allocation of funds among programs, projects, and activities in accordance with the tables in division D of this Act, subject to reprogramming guidance in accordance with established procedures.

The Senate committee-reported bill contained a similar provision (sec. 4001).

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

DIVISION E—OTHER MATTERS

TITLE L—VETERANS AFFAIRS MATTERS

Sec. 5001 - Grants for State, county, and tribal veterans' cemeteries that allow interment of certain persons eligible for interment in national cemeteries

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6099B) that would amend section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from establishing a condition for a grant that would restrict the ability of a state, county, or tribal organization from receiving a grant to authorize the interment of certain persons.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 5002 - Telephone helpline for assistance for veterans and other eligible individuals

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6066) that would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to maintain a toll-free telephone helpline that a covered individual may use to obtain information about, or through which a covered individual may be directed to, any service or benefit provided under a law administered by the Secretary.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with technical and clerical amendments.

Sec. 5003 - Report on Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry 2.0

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6045) that would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report on the current status and timeline for when the redesigned Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry 2.0 will be completed.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with an amendment.

TITLE LI—FOREIGN AFFAIRS MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—UNITED STATES FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION ACT OF 2024

Secs. 5101 - 5109 - United States Foundation for International Conservation Act of 2024

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained sec. 6291 through sec. 6299A that would enact the United States Foundation for International Conservation Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a technical amendment.

SUBTITLE B—WESTERN HEMISPHERE PARTNERSHIP ACT

Secs. 5111 - 5119 - Western Hemisphere Partnership Act

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained sec. 6271 through sec. 6279 that would enact the Western Hemisphere Partnership Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate amendment with various technical and clarifying amendments.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 5121 - Improving multilateral cooperation to improve the security of Taiwan

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6241) that would enact the Building Options for the Lasting Security of Taiwan through European Resolve Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with a clarifying amendment.

Sec. 5122 - Millennium Challenge Corporation candidate country reform

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6201) that would enact the Millennium Challenge Corporation Candidate Country Reform Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 5123 - Extension of sunset

The agreement contains a provision that would extend section 7438 of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 until December 31, 2029.

Sec. 5124 - Strategy and grant program to promote internet freedom in Iran

The agreement contains a provision that would require a strategy and program to promote internet freedom in Iran.

TITLE LII—JUDICIARY MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—LAW ENFORCEMENT AND VICTIM SUPPORT ACT OF 2024

Sec. 5201 - Short title

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6091) that would enact the Law Enforcement and Victim Support Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 5202 - Project Safe Childhood Act

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6093) that would enact the Project Safe Childhood Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 5203 - Administrative False Claims Act of 2023

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 1372) that would enact the Administrative False Claims Act of 2023.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement includes the Senate provision.

SUBTITLE B—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 5211 - Modernizing law enforcement notification

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6051) that would amend sections 921 and 922 of title 18, United States Code, to modernize certain law enforcement notifications.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement includes the Senate provision.

TITLE LIII—NATURAL RESOURCES MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—WILD ACT

Secs. 5301 - 5308 - WILD Act

The agreement includes a provision that would include the Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver Reauthorization Act.

SUBTITLE B—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 5311 - Reauthorization of Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins endangered fish and threatened fish recovery implementation programs

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6049) that would reauthorize the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin endangered fish and threatened fish recovery implementation programs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.
The agreement includes the Senate provision.

TITLE LIV—TELECOMMUNICATIONS—RELATED MATTERS

Secs. 5401 - 5405 - Spectrum and Secure Technology and Innovation Act of 2024

The agreement contains a provision that would initiate bidding processes for certain licenses and increase the limitation on expenditures under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019.

TITLE LV—TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE MATTERS

Sec. 5501 - GAO study and report on intentional disruption of the National Airspace System

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6043) that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to study the vulnerability of the National Airspace System to potential disruptive operations by any person, party, or entity (in this section referred to as ``adversaries'') exploiting the electromagnetic spectrum and security vulnerabilities in the Aircraft Communications, Reporting and Addressing System (ACARS) and Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision with minor technical amendments.

Sec. 5502 - Frank A. LoBiondo National Aerospace Safety and Security Campus

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1083) that would designate the campus and grounds of the Federal facility at which the 117th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard is stationed as the "Frank A. LoBiondo National Aerospace Safety and Security Campus."

The Senate committee-reported bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the House provision with a clarifying amendment.

TITLE LVI—HOMELAND SECURITY-RELATED MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—SECURING ADJACENT FEDERAL PROPERTY

Secs. 5601 - 5603 - Secure Adjacent Federal Property Act of 2023

The agreement includes a provision that would direct the General Services Administration (GSA), in coordination with the Federal Protective Service, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of Management and Budget, and any other relevant entities, to carry out a governmentwide study examining options to assist agencies to produce a process to assess the security of adjacent space before entering into a lease or novation agreement for high-security space.

SUBTITLE B—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 5611 - Department of Homeland Security Northern Border Mission Center

The agreement includes a provision that would establish a Department of Homeland Security Northern Border Mission Center and require that Center to serve as a coordination mechanism for operational components for the implementation of the Department of Homeland Security Northern Border Strategy.

Sec. 5612 - Comptroller General report on the Homeland Security Information Network

The agreement contains a provision that would require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report on the Homeland Security Information Network not later than one year the enactment of this Act.

TITLE LVII—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 5701 - Treatment of payments from the railroad unemployment insurance Account

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6072) that would permanently exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 5702 - Extension of learning period for certain safety regulations relating to space flight participants

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6502) that

would amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the learning period for certain safety regulations relating to space flight participants.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

Sec. 5703 - Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal

The agreement contains a provision that would provide for the award of a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps for service during World War I, commonly known as the "Hello Girls".

Sec. 5704 - Extension of competitive service status authority for employees of a Lead Inspector General for Overseas Contingency Operation

The agreement includes a provision that would extend competitive service status authority for employees of a lead inspector general for overseas contingency operations until December 19, 2029.

Sec. 5705 - Ensuring access to certain higher education benefits

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6058) that would amend subsection (a) of section 484C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-329), to change the definition of service in the uniformed services to include any service on active duty in the Armed Forces, including such service by a member of the reserve component.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provision.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED

Centers of Excellence for Assessing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Water Sources and Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Remediation Solutions

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5321) that would require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to select an eligible research university, an eligible rural university, and a National Laboratory to be known as the "Centers of Excellence for Assessing Perfluoroalkyl and

Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Water Sources and Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Remediation Solutions.”

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Small business subcontracting improvements

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5862) that would enact the Small Business Subcontractor Utilization Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Unconditional ownership and control requirements for certain employee-owned small business concerns

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5863) that would require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to complete a study and recommend alternatives to unconditional ownership and control requirements for employee stock ownership plans and eligible worker-owned cooperatives that would enable access to set-aside procurement programs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Training on increasing contract awards to certain small business concerns

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5865) that would require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide training to contracting officers of the respective Federal agency that did not meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii) of the Small Business Act (Public Law 85-536) on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Small business procurement

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5866) that would direct agencies to increase the number of new small

business entrants that have not previously had a prime contract with the Federal Government.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Plain language in contracting

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 5867) that would require each notice pertaining to small business concerns published by a Federal agency of the single Government-wide point of entry to be written in a manner that is clear, concise, and accessible to a small business concern.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Eligibility of spouses for services under the disabled veterans' outreach program

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6041) that would amend section 4103A of title 38, United States Code, to make certain spouses of military personnel or former military personnel eligible for services under the disabled veterans' outreach program.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Disclosures by directors, officers, and principal stockholders

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6042) that would amend section 16(a)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Public Law 73-291) to expand the disclosure requirements for directors, officers, and principal stockholders.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

PREEMIE Reauthorization Act

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6046) that would enact the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Federal programs and services agreement with the Government of the Republic of Palau

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6048) that would require new Federal programs and services agreements with the Government of the Republic of Palau to be in accordance with the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic of Palau.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Retired law enforcement officers continuing service

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6050) that would amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

IMPROVE initiative

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6053) that would amend Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284) to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to establish the Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Initiative.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6054) that would amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261, 10595a, and 10631) and the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60511, 60521, and 60531) to enhance and reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Modification of rules for approval of commercial driver education programs for purposes of educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6055) that would amend section 3680A(e) of title 38, United States Code, to modify rules for approval of commercial driver education programs for purposes of educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Ensuring only licensed health care professionals perform medical disability examinations under certain Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6056) that would amend section 504 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-275) to ensure that only licensed health care professionals are authorized to provide medical disability examinations under a Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Sickle cell disease prevention and treatment

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6059) that would amend section 1106(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-5(b)) to address the treatment of sickle cell disease and the prevention and treatment of complications of sickle cell disease.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Sharing of information with respect to suspected violations of intellectual property rights

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6060) that would amend section 628A of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1628a).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Authorization of appropriations for the Coast Guard

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6062) that would authorize certain aspects of the Coast Guard.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Treatment of prescreening report requests

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6061) that would make certain amendments to section 604(c) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681b(c)).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Modification of acquisition of icebreaker

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6063) that would relax some requirements for the icebreaker acquisition program, but add various reporting requirements.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Amendments to the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6064) that would amend section 2 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114-287).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Chip EQUIP Act

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6065) that would enact the Chip Equipment Quality, Usefulness, and Integrity Protection Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Preservation of affordable housing resources

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6069) that would authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

to waive application of certain statutes to facilitate the preservation of affordable housing resources.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Outbound investment transparency

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6071) that would amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 (Public Law 81-774).

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Congressional Gold Medal

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6074) that would grant a Congressional Gold Medal to Jens Stoltenberg.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Temporary judgeships in the district courts

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained two identical provisions (sec. 6075 and sec. 6076) that would authorize certain existing judgeships under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, and provide for the incumbents in those offices to hold their offices under section 133 of title 28, United States Code.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provisions.

International Nuclear Energy Act of 2024

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained sec. 6081 through sec. 6089D that would enact the International Nuclear Energy Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provisions.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Preventing Child Trafficking Act of 2024

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6092) that would enact the Preventing Child Trafficking Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Strong Communities Act of 2023

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6094) that would enact the Strong Communities Act of 2023.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act of 2023

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6095) that would enact the Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act of 2023.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Justice for Murder Victims Act

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6097) that would enact the Justice for Murder Victims Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Project Safe Neighborhoods Reauthorization Act of 2023

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6098) that would enact the Project Safe Neighborhoods Reauthorization Act of 2023.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Federal Judiciary Stabilization Act of 2024

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6099) that would enact the Federal Judiciary Stabilization Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

American Law Enforcement Sustaining Aid and Vital Emergency Resources Act

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6099A) that would enact the American Law Enforcement Sustaining Aid and Vital Emergency Resources Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Extension and modification of Global Engagement Center

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6203) that would amend section 1287 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) by extending the Global Engagement Center until 2031.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the provision.

Eligibility of Taiwan for the strategic trade authorization exception to certain export control licensing requirements

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6242) that would require the President to take steps so that Taiwan may be treated as if it were included in the list of countries eligible for the strategic trade authorization exception under section 740.20(c)(1) of the Export Administration Regulations.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Extension of Fentanyl Sanctions Act

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6261) that would extend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act to 2030.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Amendments to the 21st Century Peace through Strength Act

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6262) that would amend the 21st Century Peace through Strength Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Asset Seizure for Ukraine Reconstruction Act

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained sec. 6281 through sec. 6286 that would enact the Asset Seizure for Ukraine Reconstruction Act.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration agreements with private and commercial entities and State governments to provide certain supplies, support, and services

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained a provision (sec. 6501) that would amend section 20113 of title 51, United States Code, to authorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into agreements with private and commercial entities and State governments to provide certain supplies, support, and services.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained division F that would enact the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

State Trade Expansion Program

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained division G that would enact the State Trade Expansion Program Modernization Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Judicial understaffing delays getting emergencies resolved

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained division J that would address the shortage of permanent district court judgeships.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained division K that would enact the Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

Combating Cartels on Social Media Act of 2024

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained division L that would enact the Combating Cartels on Social Media Act of 2024.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement does not include the Senate provision.

DIVISION F—INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Secs. 6001 - 6902 - Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained sec. 1 through sec. 1105 that would enact the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

The Senate committee-reported bill also contained a provision (sec. 1545) that would require the Secretary of Defense to implement a pilot program, the Geospatial Workforce Pilot Program, to assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing a permanent program to develop a skilled workforce in geospatial technologies, methodologies, and capabilities in support of defense intelligence requirements.

The House bill contained no similar division or provision.

The agreement includes the Senate provisions with an amendment that contains the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

DIVISION G—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

*Secs. 7001 - 7812 - Department of State Authorization Act for
Fiscal Year 2025*

A proposed amendment (amendment number 3290) to the Senate committee-reported bill contained sec. 9001 through sec. 9709 that would enact the Department of State Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The agreement includes the Senate amendment with various technical and clarifying amendments.