

## **Amendment to H.R. 8800**

### **Offered by: Ms. Goodlander of New Hampshire**

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 8800, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

#### **Protecting Free and Fair Elections**

The committee supports efforts to protect the integrity of Federal elections and to ensure that eligible voters are able to cast ballots free from intimidation, coercion, or undue interference. The committee recognizes the longstanding importance of existing law prohibiting the deployment of federal troops and armed federal law enforcement personnel at polling locations except in limited circumstances expressly authorized by law. The committee further recognizes that maintaining a clear separation between military authority and civilian election administration is essential to preserving public confidence in democratic institutions and the constitutional rights of American voters.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than August 1, 2026, on Department policies, procedures, training, and coordination efforts related to the maintenance of free and fair elections during the November 1, 2026, federal election. The briefing should include the following:

1. A summary of Department guidance regarding compliance with all applicable laws governing the role of the Armed Forces in domestic election-related activities, including restrictions on the deployment of federal troops at polling locations;
2. A description of training and oversight measures provided to military personnel concerning election-related activities and civilian interactions;
3. A summary of coordination between the Department of Defense and other federal, state, and local authorities regarding election security planning and support activities; and
4. A description of any additional measures the Department is taking to maintain public confidence in the neutrality of the Armed Forces during the 2026 federal election cycle.