

Amendment to H.R. 6395
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021

Offered by Mrs. Luria of Virginia

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 6395, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Technology Insertion in New Ship Designs

The committee recognizes that ongoing delays on the lead FORD class aircraft carrier may indicate systemic problems with Navy shipbuilding practices with how new technologies are developed and incorporated. It is unfortunate that new technologies such as the advanced weapons elevators were not prototyped before being incorporated on the lead ship, a mistake that has contributed to lengthy delays. The committee is concerned with the Navy's decision to accept a ship that still had major discrepancies. The committee supports expanded prototyping activities for new technologies to ensure required reliability is obtained before ship authorization. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by February 1, 2021 detailing the number of times the Navy has accepted a ship prior to the incorporation and completion of major subsystems over the last twenty years, the circumstances that drove the Navy to accept such ship, and the length of time between acceptance and final incorporation of such subsystems. Additionally, the committee directs the Secretary to specifically assess emerging technologies, their associated technology readiness levels and required prototyping activities that are being incorporated in emerging programs including the following specific programs: Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine; the guided missiles frigate; the next generation attack submarine; large surface combatant; and, the large unmanned surface vessel.