SEC. ___. INCLUSION OF SOFTWARE IN GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE OF ACQUISITON FUNCTIONS.

(a) INCLUSION OF SOFTWARE.—Section 1706(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(14) Program lead software.".

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 1706 of such title is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "and each major automated information system program"; and

(2) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "major defense acquisition program" has the meaning given such term in section 2430(a) of this title.".

Section-by-Section Analysis

The proposal adds "software" to the list of government performance of acquisition positions to ensure that each major defense acquisition program has a software program lead position that is performed by a properly qualified member of the armed forces or full-time employee of the Department of Defense. As noted in the February 2018 Defense Science Board report, "Design and Acquisition of Software for Defense Systems", software is a crucial and growing part of weapons systems and the Department needs to be able to sustain immortal software indefinitely. The Task Force concluded that the Department of Defense would benefit from the implementation of continuous iterative development best practices as software becomes an increasingly important part of defense systems. DoD lacks modern software development expertise in its program offices or the broader functional acquisition workforce. DoD needs to ensure software management and expertise is developed and established as core to major programs. As part of implementing the Department's high priority on software acquisition DoD must ensure properly qualified professionals are available for key leadership positions responsible for software. Additionally, the proposal removes the statutory reference to the category of Major Automated Information System (MAIS). Section 2445a of title 10 was repealed by Pub. L. 114-328, section 846, effective 30 September 2017.

Budget Implications: No budgetary impact.

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would amend section 1706 of title 10, United States Code, as follows:

§1706. Government performance of certain acquisition functions

(a) Goal.-It shall be the goal of the Department of Defense and each of the military departments to ensure that, for each major defense acquisition program ~~and each major automated information system program~~, each of the following positions is performed by a properly qualified member of the armed forces or full-time employee of the Department of Defense:

(1) Program executive officer.
(2) Deputy program executive officer.
(3) Program manager.
(4) Deputy program manager.
(5) Senior contracting official.
(6) Chief developmental tester.
(7) Program lead product support manager.
(8) Program lead systems engineer.
(9) Program lead cost estimator.
(10) Program lead contracting officer.
(11) Program lead business financial manager.
(12) Program lead production, quality, and manufacturing.
(13) Program lead information technology.
(14) Program lead software.

(b) Plan of Action.-The Secretary of Defense shall develop and implement a plan of action for recruiting, training, and ensuring appropriate career development of military and civilian personnel to achieve the objective established in subsection (a).

(c) Definition~~s~~.-In this section~~:~~

~~(1) The~~, the term "major defense acquisition program" has the meaning given such term in section 2430(a) of this title.

~~(2) The term "major automated information system program" has the meaning given such term in section 2445a(a)~~ [1] ~~of this title.~~