

## Union Calendar No. 96

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3196

[Report No. 116-132]

To designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the “Vera Rubin Survey Telescope”.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

JUNE 27, 2019

Additional sponsors: Mr. COHEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, and Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma

JUNE 27, 2019

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

# **A BILL**

To designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the  
“Vera Rubin Survey Telescope”.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Vera Rubin Survey  
5 Telescope Designation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress finds the following:

8            (1) Dr. Vera Rubin was born July 23, 1928, to  
9 Philip and Rose Applebaum Cooper.

10           (2) Dr. Rubin pursued her graduate studies at  
11 Cornell University and Georgetown University, earn-  
12 ing her Ph.D. in Physics in 1954.

13           (3) Dr. Rubin’s Ph.D. thesis on galaxy motions  
14 provided supporting evidence that galaxies are not  
15 uniformly distributed, but exist in clusters.

16           (4) Dr. Rubin continued to study the motions  
17 of galaxies, first as research associate and assistant  
18 professor at Georgetown University, and then as a  
19 member of the staff at the Carnegie Institution of  
20 Washington Department of Terrestrial Magnetism.

21           (5) Dr. Rubin faced barriers throughout her ca-  
22 reer because of her gender.

23           (6) For instance, one of the world’s leading as-  
24 tronomy facilities at the time, the Palomar Observ-  
25 atory, did not permit women. Dr. Rubin persisted

1 and was finally allowed to observe at Palomar in  
2 1965, the first woman officially allowed to do so.

3 (7) In 1970, Dr. Rubin published measure-  
4 ments of the Andromeda galaxy showing stars and  
5 gas orbiting the galaxy's center too fast to be ex-  
6 plained by the amount of mass associated with the  
7 light output of the stars.

8 (8) In the years that followed, Dr. Rubin and  
9 her collaborators used their observations, in conjunc-  
10 tion with the work by earlier astronomers on the ro-  
11 tation of stars in spiral galaxies, to provide some of  
12 the best evidence for the existence of dark matter.

13 (9) This work contributed to a major shift in  
14 the conventional view of the universe, from one  
15 dominated by ordinary matter such as what pro-  
16 duces the light of stars, to one dominated by dark  
17 matter.

18 (10) Dr. Rubin was elected to the National  
19 Academy of Sciences in 1981, the second woman as-  
20 tronomer to be so honored.

21 (11) Dr. Rubin was awarded the President's  
22 National Medal of Science in 1993 "for her pio-  
23 neering research programs in observational cos-  
24 mology which demonstrated that much of the matter  
25 in the universe is dark, and for significant contribu-

1 tions to the realization that the universe is more  
2 complex and more mysterious than had been imag-  
3 ined”.

4 (12) Dr. Rubin was an outspoken advocate for  
5 the equal treatment and representation of women in  
6 science, and she served as a mentor, supporter, and  
7 role model to many women astronomers throughout  
8 her life.

9 (13) The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope,  
10 funded jointly by the National Science Foundation  
11 and the Department of Energy, will honor the legacy  
12 of Dr. Rubin and her colleagues to probe the nature  
13 of dark matter by mapping and cataloging billions of  
14 galaxies through space and time.

15 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION.**

16 The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope shall be known  
17 and designated as the “Vera Rubin Survey Telescope”.

18 **SEC. 4. REFERENCES.**

19 Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document,  
20 paper, or other record of the United States to the facility  
21 described in section 3 shall be deemed to be a reference  
22 to the “Vera Rubin Survey Telescope”.

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