

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7236

To allow the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a research center for deep space and interplanetary research, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2020

Mr. BIGGS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To allow the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a research center for deep space and interplanetary research, and for other purposes.

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 “Space Research Inno-
5 vation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH CENTER FOR DEEP-SPACE AND INTER-**
2 **PLANETARY RESEARCH.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-
4 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration, using the
5 authority under section 2304(c)(3)(B) of title 10, United
6 States Code, shall—

7 (1) establish a university-affiliated research
8 center to facilitate capabilities in support of the Na-
9 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration;

10 (2) use such a university-affiliated research cen-
11 ter to fund analyses and engineering support related
12 to cis-lunar and deep-space missions and interplan-
13 etary research; and

14 (3) ensure such a university-affiliated research
15 center—

16 (A) is held accountable for the technical
17 quality of the work product developed under
18 this section; and

19 (B) has established expertise in convening
20 academic and private sector groups to facilitate
21 research and private-public partnerships.

22 (b) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Adminis-
23 trator shall develop and implement policies and procedures
24 to govern, with respect to the establishment of the univer-
25 sity-affiliated research center under subsection (a)—

26 (1) the selection of participants;

1 (2) the award of cooperative agreements or
2 other contracts;

3 (3) the appropriate use of competitive awards
4 and sole source awards; and

5 (4) the technical capabilities required.

6 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—The following entities shall be eli-
7 gible to participate in a university-affiliated research cen-
8 ter established under subsection (a)—

9 (1) an institution of higher education (as de-
10 fined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of
11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

12 (2) an operator of a federally funded research
13 and development center; and

14 (3) a nonprofit or not-for-profit research insti-
15 tution.

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