

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2780

To establish a training facility to support functions and activities relating to the licensing of commercial space launch and reentry activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To establish a training facility to support functions and activities relating to the licensing of commercial space launch and reentry activities, 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 “Licensing Innovations
5 and Future Technologies in Space Act” or the “LIFTS
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMERCIAL SPACE LICENSING TRAINING FACIL-**
2 **ITY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation,
4 in collaboration with the Administrator of the Federal
5 Aviation Administration, the Administrator of the Na-
6 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Sec-
7 retary of Commerce, shall establish a facility (referred to
8 in this section as the “training facility”) at which Federal
9 employees may receive training on functions and activities
10 relating to the licensing of commercial space launch and
11 reentry activities.

12 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The training facility shall—

13 (1) provide initial and recurrent training relat-
14 ing to the requirements set forth in section 50905
15 of title 51, United States Code, and any relevant
16 regulations promulgated under that section;

17 (2) coordinate with institutions of higher edu-
18 cation (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Edu-
19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) to develop
20 curricula; and

21 (3) coordinate with industry partners to ensure
22 that training facility curricula incorporates new and
23 emerging spaceflight technology, including automatic
24 flight termination systems and reusable launch vehi-
25 cles.

1 (c) SELECTION OF LOCATION.—The training facility
2 shall be located at a current center of the National Aero-
3 nautics and Space Administration that—

4 (1) has expertise relating to the design and
5 testing of space propulsion systems;

6 (2) is capable of conducting a wide range of
7 testing capabilities, including large thrust-level at-
8 mospheric and altitude engines and engine systems
9 test capabilities;

10 (3) has a commercial space industry presence;

11 (4) has sufficient restricted airspace to conduct
12 any necessary testing or field demonstration; and

13 (5) has readily available buildings, facilities,
14 and other resources to minimize the need for the
15 construction of new facilities.

16 (d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
19 retary of Transportation shall develop, and submit
20 to the appropriate committees of Congress, an im-
21 plementation plan with respect to the establishment
22 of the training facility.

23 (2) EMPLOYEE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE AS-
24 SESSMENT.—In developing the implementation plan

1 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Transpor-
 2 tation shall—

3 (A) in collaboration with such organiza-
 4 tions as the Secretary considers appropriate,
 5 develop and carry out an employee skills and
 6 knowledge assessment for employees of the Of-
 7 fice of Commercial Space Transportation, and

8 (B) use the results of the assessment to in-
 9 form the development of the implementation
 10 plan.

11 (3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after
 12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
 13 of Transportation shall brief the appropriate com-
 14 mittees of Congress on progress toward completion
 15 of the implementation plan under paragraph (1).

16 (e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
 17 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
 18 tees of Congress” means—

19 (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
 20 Transportation of the Senate; and

21 (2) the Committee on Science, Space, and
 22 Technology and the Committee on Transportation
 23 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

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