

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10320

To amend title 51, United States Code, to establish a Commercial Space Transportation Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2024

Mr. KILEY (for himself and Mr. FONG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To amend title 51, United States Code, to establish a Commercial Space Transportation Administration, 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 “New Space Age Act
5 of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION ADMINIS-**
7 **TRATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 50921 of title 51, United
9 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 **“§ 50921. Commercial Space Transportation Adminis-**
2 **tration**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
4 the Department of Transportation a Commercial Space
5 Transportation Administration to—

6 “(1) accelerate the growth of the commercial
7 space transportation industry of the United States;

8 “(2) ensure United States technological leader-
9 ship in space; and

10 “(3) protect the public health and safety, safety
11 of property, national security interests, and foreign
12 policy interests of the United States during commer-
13 cial launch and reentry activities.

14 “(b) ADMINISTRATOR.—The Commercial Space
15 Transportation Administration shall be headed by an Ad-
16 ministrator who is appointed by the President, by and with
17 the advice and consent of the Senate. The Administrator
18 shall report directly to the Secretary of Transportation.
19 The Administrator shall have at least 5 years of experience
20 in the space industry or in a government agency or office
21 in the commercial space industry.

22 “(c) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Adminis-
23 trator of the Commercial Space Transportation Adminis-
24 tration shall—

25 “(1) exercise the authorities of the Secretary of
26 Transportation with respect to commercial space

1 launch and reentry activities, including the authori-
2 ties provided under chapter 509 of title 51;

3 “(2) encourage the development of technologies
4 and capabilities of the commercial space transpor-
5 tation industry of the United States;

6 “(3) maintain the competitive edge of the
7 United States in commercial space activities;

8 “(4) coordinate activities with other agencies
9 and departments of the Federal Government, includ-
10 ing the Federal Communications Commission, the
11 Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics
12 and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation Ad-
13 ministration, and the Department of Defense, to
14 streamline and expedite the approval of licenses nec-
15 essary for the timely conduct of commercial space
16 launch and reentry activities; and

17 “(5) issue regulations concerning commercial
18 space launch and reentry activities that appro-
19 priately manage—

20 “(A) commercial requirements for timely
21 approval or denial of license and permit applica-
22 tions or modifications to such applications;

23 “(B) advantages in technology developed
24 or manufactured in the United States;

1 “(C) responsiveness and readiness of com-
2 mercial space launches to meet commercial and
3 national security needs, including by minimizing
4 delays as a result of licensing and authorization
5 processes; and

6 “(D) public safety concerns.

7 “(d) TRANSFER.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of enactment of the New Space Age Act of 2024,
9 the Secretary shall transfer the authorities to be exercised
10 by the Administrator of the Commercial Space Transpor-
11 tation Administration from the Federal Aviation Adminis-
12 tration or any other agency of the Department of Trans-
13 portation.

14 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the
16 activities of the Commercial Space Transportation Admin-
17 istration \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
18 through 2028, of which not less than 75 percent of the
19 amount appropriated—

20 “(1) shall be reserved only for use in the timely
21 and expeditious processing of applications for li-
22 censes and authorizations; and

23 “(2) may not be used in the development or
24 promulgation of regulations.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for title
2 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the item
3 relating to section 50921 and inserting the following:

“50921. Commercial Space Transportation Administration.”.

4 **SEC. 3. LAUNCH AND REENTRY WORKING GROUP.**

5 (a) DISESTABLISHMENT.—The Common Standards
6 Working Group established by the Department of the Air
7 Force, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Na-
8 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration shall be dis-
9 established not more than 180 days after the date of en-
10 actment of this Act. The records, responsibilities, and du-
11 ties of such Working Group shall be assumed by the work-
12 ing group established pursuant to subsection (b).

13 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
14 tation shall establish a working group, to be known as the
15 “Launch and Reentry Working Group”, to recommend to
16 the Secretary safety standards intended to protect the
17 public and critical assets on Federal space launch ranges
18 from hazards associated with space launch and reentry
19 events.

20 (c) MEMBERS.—The Launch and Reentry Working
21 Group shall be made up of—

- 22 (1) the Administrator of the Commercial Space
23 Transportation Administration;
24 (2) the Chief of Space Operations;

1 (3) the Administrator of the National Aero-
2 nautics and Space Administration;

3 (4) representatives from commercial space
4 launch or reentry operators with a proven history of
5 successful launch or reentry activities licensed by the
6 Commercial Space Transportation Administration or
7 the Office of the Associate Administrator for Com-
8 mercial Space Transportation; and

9 (5) not more than 4 non-governmental members
10 with specific expertise in space launch and reentry,
11 to be appointed by the Secretary of Transportation,
12 that are not representatives of commercial space
13 launch and reentry providers described in paragraph
14 (4).

15 (d) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES.—The Launch and
16 Reentry Working Group shall—

17 (1) make its methodologies for calculating risks
18 and standards available to an operator of a launch
19 or reentry vehicle system within 7 days of a request
20 by such operator impacted by such methodologies;

21 (2) in approving new risk models, data prod-
22 ucts, other safety recommendations, or in conducting
23 other significant business—

1 (A) require recorded approval from a ma-
 2 jority of the participants of the Working Group;
 3 and

4 (B) not allow nonconcurrence or abstention
 5 by a single or multiple members of the Working
 6 Group to disrupt or delay the approval;

7 (3) make all relevant data available to space
 8 launch and reentry providers, government agencies,
 9 and other responsible bodies upon request;

10 (4) conduct the work of the Working Group in
 11 a timely manner, including through regularly sched-
 12 uled meetings and, as required, emergency meetings;
 13 and

14 (5) ensure that recommendations are based on
 15 real-world, probabilistic assessments and discount
 16 hypotheticals based on unproven assumptions or
 17 technologies.

18 **SEC. 3. COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY**
 19 **COMMITTEE.**

20 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
 21 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall update
 22 the charter of the Commercial Space Transportation Advi-
 23 sory Committee (DOT/FAA Order 1110.124I) to—

24 (1) encourage greater participation from indus-
 25 try and nongovernmental experts;

1 (2) require that the Advisory Committee estab-
2 lish the agenda of the Committee independently of
3 any requests from the Administrator of the Federal
4 Aviation Administration;

5 (3) ensure that the Administrator of the Fed-
6 eral Aviation Administration or, once established,
7 the Commercial Space Transportation Administra-
8 tion is using the Advisory Committee to receive
9 input from external sources in order to inform gov-
10 ernmental activities;

11 (4) require that the Advisory Committee trans-
12 mit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
13 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on
14 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
15 Representatives not less than annually a report that
16 includes all agenda items proposed by the Advisory
17 Committee, including any agenda items that are not
18 accepted by the Secretary; and

19 (5) require that the Secretary make available
20 not later than December 31 of each year a public re-
21 port detailing the total expenses incurred by or rea-
22 sonably caused by the Advisory Committee, includ-
23 ing the number of hours consumed by full Com-
24 mittee and working group meetings and in-kind con-
25 tributions that may include the value of time pro-

1 vided by Federal Government employees, in the cal-
2 endar year in which such report is prepared, as well
3 as a cumulative accounting of all prior expenses in-
4 curred, to the maximum extent practicable.

5 **SEC. 3. SPACE-RELATED ADVISORY RULEMAKING COMMIT-**
6 **TEES.**

7 Section 50903 of title 51, United States Code, is
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(e) FACA.—Chapter 10 of title 5 (commonly known
10 as ‘the Federal Advisory Committee Act’) does not apply
11 to such space-related rulemaking committees under the ju-
12 risdiction of the Secretary of Transportation as the Sec-
13 retary may designate.”.

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