

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7379

To amend title 51, United States Code, to provide the National Aeronautics and Space Administration authority to detect, identify, monitor, and track unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2026

Ms. STEVENS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 51, United States Code, to provide the National Aeronautics and Space Administration authority to detect, identify, monitor, and track unmanned aircraft systems, 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 “NASA Counter-Un-
5 manned Aircraft System Authority Act” or the “NASA
6 C-UAS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NASA AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO UNMANNED**
2 **AIRCRAFT SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION AND DE-**
3 **TECTION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of
5 title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
6 end the following new section:

7 **“§ 20150. Detecting, identifying, monitoring, and**
8 **tracking unmanned aircraft systems and**
9 **unmanned aircraft that pose threats to**
10 **certain facilities and assets**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 46502
12 of title 49, sections 32, 1030, and 1367 and chapters 119
13 and 206 of title 18, or section 705 of the Communications
14 Act of 1934, the Administrator may take, and may au-
15 thorize personnel with assigned duties that include the se-
16 curity or protection of people, facilities, or assets to take,
17 the actions described in subsection (b) that are necessary
18 to detect, identify, monitor, and track an unmanned air-
19 craft system or unmanned aircraft that poses a credible
20 threat (as defined by the Administrator, in consultation
21 with the Secretary) to the safety or security of a covered
22 facility or asset.

23 “(b) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—The actions described in
24 this subsection are limited to such actions during the oper-
25 ation of an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned air-
26 craft to detect, identify, monitor, or track, as appropriate,

1 the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, with-
2 out prior consent, including by means of intercept or other
3 access of a wire communication, an oral communication,
4 or an electronic communication used to control the un-
5 manned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

6 “(c) IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COV-
7 ERED FACILITIES OR ASSETS.—

8 “(1) INVENTORY OF CERTAIN FACILITIES OR
9 ASSETS.—The Administrator shall identify each fa-
10 cility or asset located on or within the property of
11 the Administration that directly relates to one or
12 more missions of the Administration pertaining to
13 any of the following:

14 “(A) Launch services.

15 “(B) Reentry services.

16 “(C) The protection of space support vehi-
17 cles or payloads.

18 “(2) RISK-BASED ASSESSMENT.—The Adminis-
19 trator, in coordination with the Secretary, shall con-
20 duct a risk-based assessment of each facility and
21 asset identified under paragraph (1) that includes
22 an evaluation of the following:

23 “(A) Threat information specific to each
24 such facility and asset.

1 “(B) Each of the following factors, with
2 respect to potential impacts on the safety and
3 efficiency of the national airspace system and
4 law enforcement and national security needs
5 while carrying out the activities described in
6 subsection (b):

7 “(i) Potential effects to safety, effi-
8 ciency, or use of the national airspace sys-
9 tem, including potential effects on a
10 manned aircraft, an unmanned aircraft
11 system or unmanned aircraft, aviation
12 safety, airport operations, infrastructure,
13 or air navigation services related to the use
14 of any system or technology for carrying
15 out the actions described in subsection (b).

16 “(ii) Options for mitigating any iden-
17 tified effects to the national airspace sys-
18 tem related to the use of any system or
19 technology, including minimizing, when
20 possible, the use of any technology which
21 disrupts the transmission of radio or elec-
22 tronic signals, for carrying out the actions
23 described in subsection (b).

24 “(iii) Potential consequences of the
25 impacts of any actions described in sub-

1 section (b) to the national airspace system
2 or infrastructure if not detected, identified,
3 monitored, or tracked.

4 “(iv) The ability to provide reasonable
5 advance notice to aircraft operators con-
6 sistent with the safety of the national air-
7 space system and the needs of law enforce-
8 ment and national security.

9 “(v) The setting and character of the
10 facility or asset at issue, including the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(I) Whether the facility or asset
13 is located in a populated area or near
14 other structures.

15 “(II) Whether the facility or
16 asset is open to the public.

17 “(III) Whether the facility or
18 asset is used for nongovernmental
19 functions.

20 “(IV) Any potential for inter-
21 ference with wireless communications
22 or for injury or damage to persons or
23 property.

24 “(vi) The setting, character, time-
25 frame, and national airspace system im-

1 pacts of launch services and reentry serv-
2 ices.

3 “(vii) Potential consequences to na-
4 tional security, public safety, or law en-
5 forcement if a credible threat posed by an
6 unmanned aircraft system or unmanned
7 aircraft to the facility or asset at issue is
8 not detected, identified, monitored, or
9 tracked.

10 “(3) DESIGNATION OF COVERED FACILITIES OR
11 ASSETS.—The Administrator shall designate a facil-
12 ity or asset identified under paragraph (1) as a cov-
13 ered facility or asset if the Administrator deter-
14 mines, based on the risk-based assessment conducted
15 under paragraph (2) with respect to the facility or
16 asset, that the facility or asset is high-risk and a po-
17 tential target for unlawful unmanned aircraft system
18 or unmanned aircraft activity.

19 “(d) RESEARCH, TESTING, TRAINING, AND EVALUA-
20 TION.—

21 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sec-
23 tion 46502 of title 49, sections 32, 1030, and
24 1367 and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18, and
25 section 705 of the Communications Act of

1 1934, the Administrator is authorized to con-
2 duct research, testing, training on, and evalua-
3 tion of any equipment approved by the Federal
4 Government for the detection, identification,
5 monitoring, and tracking of unmanned aircraft
6 system or unmanned aircraft under subsections
7 (a) and (b), including any electronic equipment,
8 to determine the capability and utility of the
9 equipment prior to the use of the equipment for
10 any action described in subsection (b).

11 “(B) PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTORS.—
12 Personnel and contractors of the Administra-
13 tion who do not have duties that include the
14 safety, security, or protection of people, facili-
15 ties, or assets of the Administration may en-
16 gage in research, testing, training, and evalua-
17 tion activities pursuant to subparagraph (A).

18 “(2) TRAINING OF PERSONNEL.—The Adminis-
19 trator shall provide training on the actions described
20 in subsection (b) to personnel authorized to take
21 such actions.

22 “(3) AVIATION SAFETY.—In carrying out any
23 activity under this section, the Administrator shall
24 coordinate with the Secretary to ensure the contin-

1 ued, safe, and efficient operation of the national air-
2 space system.

3 “(e) REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE.—The Adminis-
4 trator—

5 “(1) shall issue guidance and may prescribe
6 regulations as necessary for the Administrator to
7 carry out this section; and

8 “(2) in developing regulations and guidance re-
9 ferred to in paragraph (1), may consult the Chair-
10 man of the Federal Communications Commission,
11 the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Commu-
12 nications and Information, the Secretary of Trans-
13 portation, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
14 Administration, and the head of any other agency
15 determined appropriate by the Administrator.

16 “(f) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall co-
17 ordinate with the Secretary and may coordinate with the
18 heads of other agencies, as determined relevant by the Ad-
19 ministrator, to carry out any action authorized under this
20 section, including issuing such guidance as required to
21 carry out this section, in order that the Administrator is
22 able to ensure the action does not adversely impact, or
23 interfere with, any of the following:

24 “(1) Safe airport operations.

25 “(2) Navigation.

1 “(3) Air traffic services.

2 “(4) The safe and efficient operation of the na-
3 tional airspace system.

4 “(g) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The regulations or
5 guidance issued to carry out an action described in sub-
6 section (b) by the Administrator shall ensure the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(1) The interception or acquisition of, access
9 to, or maintenance or use of, any communication to
10 or from an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned
11 aircraft under this section is conducted in a manner
12 consistent with the First and Fourth Amendments
13 to the Constitution of the United States and any ap-
14 plicable provisions of Federal law.

15 “(2) Any communication to or from an un-
16 manned aircraft system or an unmanned aircraft is
17 intercepted or acquired only to the extent necessary
18 to support an action described in subsection (b).

19 “(3) Any record of such communication is
20 maintained only for as long as necessary, and in no
21 event for more than 180 days, unless the Adminis-
22 trator, in consultation with the Attorney General,
23 determines that maintenance of the records is—

24 “(A) required under Federal law;

1 “(B) necessary for the purpose of any liti-
2 gation; or

3 “(C) necessary to investigate or prosecute
4 a violation of law, including by—

5 “(i) directly supporting an ongoing se-
6 curity operation; or

7 “(ii) protecting against dangerous or
8 unauthorized activity by an unmanned air-
9 craft system or unmanned aircraft.

10 “(4) Such communication is not disclosed to
11 any person not employed or contracted by the Ad-
12 ministration for the purposes of carrying out this
13 section unless the disclosure—

14 “(A) is necessary to investigate or pros-
15 ecute a violation of law;

16 “(B) would support—

17 “(i) the Department of Defense;

18 “(ii) a Federal law enforcement agen-
19 cy, an element of the intelligence commu-
20 nity, or other relevant Federal agency; or

21 “(iii) a State or local law enforcement
22 entity or person, if the entity or person is
23 engaged in a security or protection oper-
24 ation;

1 “(C) is necessary to support a department
2 or agency specified in subparagraph (B) in the
3 investigation or prosecution of a violation of
4 law;

5 “(D) would support the enforcement activi-
6 ties of a Federal regulatory agency relating to
7 a criminal or civil investigation of, or any regu-
8 latory, statutory, or other enforcement action
9 relating to, an action described in subsection
10 (b);

11 “(E) is necessary to protect against dan-
12 gerous or unauthorized activity by an un-
13 manned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft;
14 or

15 “(F) is otherwise required by law.

16 “(h) ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
18 the Administrator is authorized to provide support
19 or assistance to a Federal agency or department, on
20 the request of the agency or department, with re-
21 spect to an action described in any of the following:

22 “(A) Section 130i of title 10.

23 “(B) Section 210G of the Homeland Secu-
24 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n).

1 “(C) Section 4510 of the Atomic Energy
2 Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2661).

3 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator shall
4 provide the support or assistance described in para-
5 graph (1) only—

6 “(A) to support or assist the requesting
7 Federal agency or department in fulfilling the
8 roles and responsibilities of the agency or de-
9 partment carried out by an action referred to in
10 such paragraph;

11 “(B) for a specified duration and location;

12 “(C) within available resources of the Ad-
13 ministration;

14 “(D) on a non-reimbursable basis; and

15 “(E) in coordination with the Secretary.

16 “(i) SEMIANNUAL BRIEFINGS AND NOTIFICA-
17 TIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On a semiannual basis be-
19 ginning 6 months after the date of the enactment of
20 this section, the Administrator shall provide a brief-
21 ing to the appropriate congressional committees on
22 the activities carried out pursuant to this section.

23 “(2) CONTENT.—Each briefing required under
24 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

1 “(A) Information relating to policies, pro-
2 grams, and procedures to mitigate or eliminate
3 impacts of the actions carried out pursuant to
4 subsection (b) to the national airspace system.

5 “(B) A description of the following:

6 “(i) Each instance that an action de-
7 scribed in subsection (b) was taken, includ-
8 ing any such instance that may have re-
9 sulted in harm, damage, or loss to a per-
10 son or to private property.

11 “(ii) The guidance, policies, or proce-
12 dures established by the Administrator to
13 address privacy, civil rights, and civil lib-
14 erties issues implicated by the actions per-
15 mitted under subsection (b), as well as any
16 changes or subsequent efforts by the Ad-
17 ministrator that would significantly affect
18 privacy, civil rights, or civil liberties.

19 “(iii) Options considered and steps
20 taken by the Administrator to mitigate any
21 identified impacts to the national airspace
22 system related to the use of any system or
23 technology, including the minimization of
24 the use of any technology that disrupts the
25 transmission of radio or electronic signals,

1 for carrying out the actions described in
2 subsection (b).

3 “(iv) Such consultation conducted by
4 the Administrator with other agencies with
5 respect to each action described under
6 clauses (ii) and (iii).

7 “(v) Each instance in which a commu-
8 nication intercepted or acquired as a result
9 of an action described in subsection (b)
10 taken during operations of an unmanned
11 aircraft system or unmanned aircraft
12 was—

13 “(I) held in the possession of the
14 Administration for more than 180
15 days; or

16 “(II) shared with any entity
17 other than the Administration.

18 “(C) An explanation of how the Adminis-
19 trator has—

20 “(i) informed the public with respect
21 to the authorities granted under this sec-
22 tion; and

23 “(ii) engaged with Federal, State,
24 local, Tribal, and territorial law enforce-

1 ment agencies to implement and use such
2 authorities.

3 “(D) An assessment of whether any gaps
4 or insufficiencies in laws, regulations, or policies
5 impede the ability of the Administration to de-
6 tect, identify, monitor, or track the credible
7 threat posed by malicious, inappropriate, or un-
8 authorized use of an unmanned aircraft system
9 or unmanned aircraft to the safety or security
10 of a covered facility or asset.

11 “(E) Recommendations to remedy any
12 such gaps or insufficiencies, including rec-
13 ommendations relating to the potential need for
14 changes in laws, regulations, or policies, as ap-
15 propriate.

16 “(3) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—Each briefing re-
17 quired under paragraph (1) shall be unclassified but
18 may be accompanied by an additional classified
19 briefing.

20 “(j) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—This section may not
21 be interpreted to provide the Administrator with any addi-
22 tional authority other than the authorities described in
23 subsections (a), (c), and (d).

24 “(k) TERMINATION.—This section shall cease to have
25 effect on September 30, 2031.

1 “(l) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion may be construed to—

3 “(1) vest in the Administrator any authority of
4 the head of any other Federal agency; or

5 “(2) vest in the head of any other Federal
6 agency any authority of the Administrator.

7 “(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
9 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
10 mittees’ means—

11 “(A) the Committee on Commerce,
12 Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

13 “(B) the Committee on Transportation
14 and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
15 tives; and

16 “(C) the Committee on Science, Space, and
17 Technology of the House of Representatives.

18 “(2) COVERED FACILITY OR ASSET.—The term
19 ‘covered facility or asset’ means a facility or asset
20 designated as a covered facility or asset by the Ad-
21 ministrator under subsection (c)(3).

22 “(3) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION; INTER-
23 CEPT; ORAL COMMUNICATION; WIRE COMMUNICA-
24 TION.—The terms ‘electronic communication’, ‘inter-
25 cept’, ‘oral communication’, and ‘wire communica-

1 tion’ have the meanings given those terms in section
2 2510 of title 18.

3 “(4) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term
4 ‘intelligence community’ has the meaning given the
5 term in section 3 of the National Security Act of
6 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

7 “(5) LAUNCH SERVICES; REENTRY SERVICES;
8 SPACE SUPPORT VEHICLE; PAYLOAD.—The terms
9 ‘launch services’, ‘reentry services’, ‘space support
10 vehicle’, and ‘payload’ have the meanings given those
11 terms in section 50902.

12 “(6) PERSONNEL.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘personnel’
14 means an officer, employee, or contractor of the
15 Administration authorized to perform duties
16 that include safety, security, or protection of
17 people, facilities, or assets.

18 “(B) USE OF AUTHORITY.—To qualify for
19 use of the authority under subsection (a), a
20 contractor conducting operations under such
21 subsection shall satisfy the following:

22 “(i) Be directly contracted by the Ad-
23 ministration.

1 “(ii) Be assigned to law enforcement
2 duties within the Office of Protective Serv-
3 ices of the Administration.

4 “(iii) Operate at a Government-owned
5 or Government-leased facility.

6 “(iv) Not conduct inherently govern-
7 mental functions.

8 “(v) Be trained and certified by the
9 Administration to meet the established
10 guidance and regulations of the Adminis-
11 tration.

12 “(vi) Be subject to the penalties speci-
13 fied in section 799 of title 18.

14 “(7) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
15 the Secretary of Transportation (acting through the
16 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administra-
17 tion).

18 “(8) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIR-
19 CRAFT SYSTEM.—The terms ‘unmanned aircraft’
20 and ‘unmanned aircraft system’ have the meanings
21 given those terms in section 44801 of title 49.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
23 for chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amend-
24 ed by inserting after the item relating to section 20149
25 the following new item:

“20150. Detecting, identifying, monitoring, and tracking unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft that threaten certain facilities and assets.”.

