

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 582

To provide for the authorized use of Federal vehicle transportation by certain astronauts.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide for the authorized use of Federal vehicle transportation by certain astronauts.

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 “Astronaut Ground
5 Travel Support Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PASSENGER CARRIER USE FOR ASTRONAUT TRANS-**
7 **PORTATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of
9 title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following:

1 **“§ 20150. Passenger carrier use for astronaut trans-**
 2 **portation**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT; INTER-
 5 NATIONAL PARTNER ASTRONAUT; SPACE FLIGHT
 6 PARTICIPANT; SPACE SUPPORT VEHICLE.—The
 7 terms ‘government astronaut’, ‘international partner
 8 astronaut’, ‘space flight participant’, and ‘space sup-
 9 port vehicle’ have the meanings given such terms in
 10 section 50902.

11 “(2) MISSION.—The term ‘mission’ means an
 12 assignment to a space support vehicle of one or
 13 more—

14 “(A) government astronauts in the course
 15 of their employment; or

16 “(B) space flight participants.

17 “(3) OFFICIAL PURPOSE.—With respect to
 18 transportation, the term ‘official purpose’ means
 19 transportation necessary for post-mission activities,
 20 including medical research, monitoring, diagnosis,
 21 and treatment of a government astronaut or space
 22 flight participant before receiving post-mission med-
 23 ical clearance to operate a motor vehicle.

24 “(4) PASSENGER CARRIER.—The term ‘pas-
 25 senger carrier’ means a passenger motor vehicle, air-
 26 craft, boat, vessel, or other similar means of trans-

1 portation that is owned or leased by the United
2 States Government.

3 “(b) AUTHORITY.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may au-
5 thorize the use of a passenger carrier to transport
6 a government astronaut or space flight participant
7 between the residence of the individual and various
8 locations if—

9 “(A) such transportation is provided for an
10 official purpose; and

11 “(B) the Chief of the Astronaut Office has
12 approved, in writing, post-mission transpor-
13 tation of government astronauts and space
14 flight participants under this section.

15 “(2) MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, AND RE-
16 PAIR.—The Administrator may maintain, operate,
17 and repair one or more passenger carriers for the
18 purpose of providing transportation pursuant to the
19 authority provided in paragraph (1).

20 “(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—Transportation under sub-
21 section (b)(1) of an international partner astronaut or a
22 space flight participant who is not an employee of the
23 United States Government shall be subject to reimburse-
24 ment to the Treasury.

1 “(d) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall pro-
 2 mulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this
 3 section.

4 “(e) APPLICABILITY OF SECTION 1344 OF TITLE
 5 31.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Administrator
 6 may expend funds available to the Administration, by ap-
 7 propriation or otherwise, notwithstanding section 1344(a)
 8 of title 31.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 10 for chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amend-
 11 ed by inserting after the item relating to section 20149
 12 the following:

“20150. Passenger carrier use for astronaut transportation.”.

