

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5346

AN ACT

To amend title 51, United States Code, to provide for licenses and experimental permits for space support vehicles, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Commercial Space
3 Support Vehicle Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 Section 50902 of title 51, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (21) through
8 (25) as paragraphs (23) through (27), respectively;
9 and

10 (2) by inserting after paragraph (20) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(21) ‘space support flight’ means a flight
13 in the air that is—

14 “(A) not a launch or reentry; but

15 “(B) related to launch or reentry serv-
16 ices.

17 “(22) ‘space support vehicle’ means a vehi-
18 cle that is—

19 “(A) a launch vehicle;

20 “(B) a reentry vehicle; or

21 “(C) a component of a launch or re-
22 entry vehicle.”.

23 **SEC. 3. LICENSING OF SPACE SUPPORT FLIGHTS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 50904 of title 51, United
25 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
26 lowing:

1 “(e) SPACE SUPPORT FLIGHTS.—

2 “(1) The Secretary of Transportation may issue
3 or transfer a license for multiple space support
4 flights of a space support vehicle to a citizen of the
5 United States, but only if such citizen holds an oper-
6 ator license issued under this chapter for launch or
7 reentry of such space support vehicle as, or included
8 as a component of, a launch vehicle or reentry vehi-
9 cle.

10 “(2) A licensee may only carry out a space sup-
11 port flight of a space support vehicle under a license
12 for carrying a person or property for compensation
13 or hire if such flight lands at the same site from
14 which the vehicle took flight.”.

15 (b) LIMITATION ON WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—
16 Section 50905(b)(3) of title 51, United States Code, is
17 amended by inserting “, or the operation of a space sup-
18 port vehicle,” after “or a reentry vehicle”.

19 **SEC. 4. EXPERIMENTAL PERMITS FOR SPACE SUPPORT**
20 **FLIGHTS.**

21 Section 50906 of title 51, United States Code, is
22 amended—

23 (1) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
24 following:

25 “(d) The Secretary may issue a permit only for—

1 “(1) reusable suborbital rockets or reusable
2 launch vehicles that will be launched into a sub-
3 orbital trajectory or reentered under that permit
4 solely for—

5 “(A) research and development to test de-
6 sign concepts, equipment, or operating tech-
7 niques;

8 “(B) showing compliance with require-
9 ments as part of the process for obtaining a li-
10 cense for launch or reentry under this chapter;
11 or

12 “(C) crew training for a launch or reentry
13 using the design of the rocket or vehicle for
14 which the permit would be issued; or

15 “(2) a space support vehicle, or a vehicle that
16 is in development to become a space support vehicle,
17 operated by a citizen of the United States for space
18 support flights that will be conducted under the per-
19 mit for, or in support of, the purposes described in
20 subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1).”;
21 and

22 (2) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the
23 following:

24 “(h) No person may, under a permit, operate a reus-
25 able suborbital rocket, reusable launch vehicle, or space

1 support vehicle for carrying any property or human being
2 for compensation or hire.”.

3 **SEC. 5. COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY.**

4 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
5 Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Sec-
6 retary of Transportation to discuss potential regulatory
7 approaches, potential performance standards, or any other
8 topic related to this Act and the amendments made by
9 this Act with the commercial space industry prior to the
10 issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking.

11 **SEC. 6. APPLICABILITY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this
13 Act shall take effect on March 1, 2019.

14 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Transportation
15 may issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out
16 the amendments made by this Act beginning on the date
17 of enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives June 27, 2018.

Attest:

Clerk.

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