

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8458

To amend title 51, United States Code, to authorize certain actions to protect certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2026

Mr. SOTO (for himself and Mr. DUNN of Florida) 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 authorize certain actions to protect certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft, 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 “Stopping Theft and
5 Aerospace Reconnaissance Act” or the “STAR Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS**
7 **FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.**

8 (a) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT CERTAIN NASA FA-
9 CILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter
2 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by
3 adding at the end the following new section:

4 **“§ 20118. Authority to take actions to protect certain**
5 **NASA facilities and assets from un-**
6 **manned aircraft**

7 “(a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
8 sion of law, the Administrator may take, and may author-
9 ize officers and employees of the Administration to take,
10 such actions as are described in subsection (b) that are
11 necessary to mitigate the threat an unmanned aircraft sys-
12 tem or unmanned aircraft poses to the safety or security
13 of a covered facility.

14 “(b) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—The actions described in
15 this subsection are the following:

16 “(1) Detect, identify, monitor, and track an un-
17 manned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, with-
18 out prior consent.

19 “(2) Warn the operator of such unmanned air-
20 craft system or unmanned aircraft, as the case may
21 be.

22 “(3) Disrupt control of such unmanned aircraft
23 system or unmanned aircraft, as the case may be,
24 without prior consent, including by disabling such
25 unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, as

1 the case may be, by intercepting electronic commu-
2 nications or otherwise interfering with such commu-
3 nications.

4 “(4) Seize or exercise control of such unmanned
5 aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, as the case
6 may be.

7 “(5) Seize or otherwise confiscate such un-
8 manned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, as
9 the case may be.

10 “(6) Use reasonable force to disable, damage,
11 or destroy such unmanned aircraft system or un-
12 manned aircraft, as the case may be.

13 “(c) FORFEITURE.—Any unmanned aircraft system
14 or unmanned aircraft described in subsection (a) and
15 seized by the Administrator is subject to forfeiture to the
16 United States.

17 “(d) SIGNAGE.—The Administrator shall display on
18 each covered facility a sign that includes information relat-
19 ing to the following:

20 “(1) The actions that may be taken pursuant to
21 subsection (a).

22 “(2) Forfeiture under subsection (c).

23 “(e) POLICY DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator, in
24 coordination with relevant offices of the Administration
25 and the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, the

1 Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Administrator
2 of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall develop uni-
3 form policy for the following:

4 “(1) The actions that may be taken pursuant to
5 subsection (a).

6 “(2) The actions that may be taken pursuant to
7 subsection (a) of section 50925.

8 “(f) DETERMINATION.—Each year, the Adminis-
9 trator shall consult with the local law enforcement agency
10 for each covered facility to determine the most effective
11 and least hazardous means to take actions pursuant to
12 subsection (a).

13 “(g) LIABILITY.—Neither the Administrator nor the
14 officers and employees of the Administration are entitled
15 to assert any form of absolute or qualified immunity as
16 a defense to liability under this section, but if an un-
17 manned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft poses a
18 threat described in subsection (a) and an action is taken
19 pursuant to such subsection to mitigate such threat, the
20 operator of such unmanned aircraft system or unmanned
21 aircraft, as the case may be, is liable for damages caused
22 by such action.

23 “(h) REPORTS.—

24 “(1) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

25 Not later than 30 days after an instance in which

1 an action described in paragraphs (3) through (6) of
2 subsection (b) is taken pursuant to subsection (a),
3 the Administrator shall submit to the local law en-
4 forcement agency for the jurisdiction in which such
5 action was taken a report on such instance, in a
6 form specified by such agency.

7 “(2) SPECIFIED ENTITIES.—Not later than one
8 year after the date of the enactment of this section
9 and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall sub-
10 mit to the specified entities a report that includes
11 for the annual period covered by such report infor-
12 mation relating to the following:

13 “(A) The actions, if any, described in para-
14 graphs (3) through (6) of subsection (b) and
15 taken pursuant to subsection (a), including an
16 identification of each instance in which such an
17 action was so taken and the means through
18 which such action was so taken.

19 “(B) The actions, if any, described in
20 paragraphs (3) through (6) of subsection (b) of
21 section 50925 and taken pursuant to subsection
22 (a) of such section, including an identification
23 of each instance in which such an action was so
24 taken and the means through which such action
25 was so taken.

1 “(C) For each action referred to in sub-
2 paragraph (A) or (B), the justification for so
3 taking such action.

4 “(D) The efforts by the Administrator to
5 protect privacy and civil liberties with respect to
6 the following:

7 “(i) The actions that may be taken
8 pursuant to subsection (a).

9 “(ii) The actions that may be taken
10 pursuant to subsection (a) of section
11 50925.

12 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) COVERED FACILITY.—The term ‘covered
14 facility’ means any facility that satisfies the fol-
15 lowing requirements:

16 “(A) Is under the jurisdiction of the Ad-
17 ministration.

18 “(B) Is identified by the Administrator as
19 a facility critical to a function of the Adminis-
20 tration.

21 “(2) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The
22 term ‘local law enforcement agency’ means the law
23 enforcement agency of a county or county-equivalent
24 entity.

1 “(3) SPECIFIED ENTITIES.—The term ‘specified
2 entities’ means the following:

3 “(A) The Committee on Energy and Com-
4 merce and the Committee on Science, Space,
5 and Technology of the House of Representa-
6 tives.

7 “(B) The Committee on Commerce,
8 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

9 “(C) The Attorney General.

10 “(D) The Secretary of Defense.

11 “(E) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

12 “(F) The Administrator of the Federal
13 Aviation Administration.

14 “(4) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIR-
15 CRAFT SYSTEM.—The terms ‘unmanned aircraft’
16 and ‘unmanned aircraft system’ have the meanings
17 given such terms in section 44801 of title 49.”.

18 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
19 tions for chapter 201 of title 51, United States
20 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating
21 to section 20117 the following new item:

 “20118. Authority to take actions to protect certain NASA facilities and assets
 from unmanned aircraft”.

22 (b) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT SPACE LAUNCH PROP-
23 PERTY FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 509 of title 51,
2 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
3 end the following new section:

4 **“§ 50925. Authority to take actions to protect space**
5 **launch property from unmanned aircraft**

6 “(a) AUTHORITY.—Subject to section 20118 and not-
7 withstanding any other provision of law, a covered entity
8 may take, and may authorize officers and employees of
9 such entity to take, such actions as are described in sub-
10 section (b) that are necessary to mitigate the threat an
11 unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft poses to
12 the safety or security of the covered property of such enti-
13 ty.

14 “(b) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—The actions described in
15 this subsection are the following:

16 “(1) Detect, identify, monitor, and track an un-
17 manned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, with-
18 out prior consent.

19 “(2) Warn the operator of such unmanned air-
20 craft system or unmanned aircraft, as the case may
21 be.

22 “(3) Disrupt control of such unmanned aircraft
23 system or unmanned aircraft, as the case may be,
24 without prior consent, including by disabling such
25 unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, as

1 the case may be, by intercepting electronic commu-
2 nications or otherwise interfering with such commu-
3 nications.

4 “(4) Seize or exercise control of such unmanned
5 aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, as the case
6 may be.

7 “(5) Seize or otherwise confiscate such un-
8 manned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, as
9 the case may be.

10 “(6) Use reasonable force to disable, damage,
11 or destroy such unmanned aircraft system or un-
12 manned aircraft, as the case may be.

13 “(c) FORFEITURE.—Any unmanned aircraft system
14 or unmanned aircraft described in subsection (a) and
15 seized by a covered entity is subject to forfeiture to the
16 local law enforcement agency for the jurisdiction in which
17 such unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, as
18 the case may be, was so seized.

19 “(d) SIGNAGE.—A covered entity shall display on
20 each covered property of such entity a sign that includes
21 information relating to the following:

22 “(1) The actions that may be taken pursuant to
23 subsection (a).

24 “(2) Forfeiture under subsection (c).

1 “(e) DETERMINATION.—Each year, a covered entity
2 shall consult with each local law enforcement agency for
3 the covered property of such entity to determine the most
4 effective and least hazardous means to take actions pursu-
5 ant to subsection (a).

6 “(f) LIABILITY.—If an unmanned aircraft system or
7 unmanned aircraft poses a threat described in subsection
8 (a) and an action is taken pursuant to such subsection
9 to mitigate such threat, the operator of such unmanned
10 aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, as the case may be,
11 is liable for damages caused by such action.

12 “(g) REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after an in-
13 stance in which an action described in paragraphs (3)
14 through (6) of subsection (b) is taken pursuant to sub-
15 section (a), the covered entity through which such action
16 was so taken shall carry out the following:

17 “(1) Submit to the local law enforcement agen-
18 cy for the jurisdiction in which such action was so
19 taken a report on such instance that satisfies the
20 following requirements:

21 “(A) Is in a form specified by such agency.

22 “(B) Includes information relating to the
23 justification for so taking such action.

1 “(2) Submit to the Administrator a report on
2 such instance that satisfies the following require-
3 ments:

4 “(A) Is in a form specified by the Adminis-
5 trator.

6 “(B) Includes information relating to such
7 justification.

8 “(C) Includes an identification of the
9 means through which such action was so taken.

10 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
12 tity’ means a person or entity licensed under this
13 chapter to conduct launch, reentry, testing, or man-
14 ufacturing activities.

15 “(2) COVERED PROPERTY.—The term ‘covered
16 property’ means any real property, including air-
17 space over such property, that is owned, leased, or
18 under the control of a covered entity and is a site
19 where launch, reentry, testing, or manufacturing ac-
20 tivities occur.

21 “(3) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The
22 term ‘local law enforcement agency’ means the law
23 enforcement agency of a county or county-equivalent
24 entity.

1 “(4) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIR-
2 CRAFT SYSTEM.—The terms ‘unmanned aircraft’
3 and ‘unmanned aircraft system’ have the meanings
4 given such terms in section 44801 of title 49.”.

5 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
6 tions for chapter 509 of title 51, United States
7 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following
8 new item:

“50925. Authority to take actions to protect space launch property from un-
manned aircraft”.

