

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4044

To require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to designate national high-energy astrophysics hubs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2026

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

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to designate national high-energy astrophysics hubs.

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 “Support for Astro-
5 physical Observatories and National High-Energy Astro-
6 physics Hubs Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORIES**
2 **AND NATIONAL HIGH-ENERGY ASTRO-**
3 **PHYSICS HUBS.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that—

6 (1) the United States should maintain its global
7 leadership in high-energy astrophysics;

8 (2) in order to maintain such leadership, the
9 United States should support X-ray flagship mis-
10 sions based on the recommendations of the most re-
11 cent and future decadal Surveys in Astronomy and
12 Astrophysics issued by the National Academies of
13 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine;

14 (3) the workforce associated with high-energy
15 astrophysics constitutes a national strategic asset
16 that will be critical to the development and eventual
17 operation of any such flagship mission; and

18 (4) proactive steps should be taken to ensure
19 that the capabilities of current high-energy astro-
20 physics facilities continue to serve the scientific, edu-
21 cational, and commercial interests of the United
22 States long beyond the duration of the current high-
23 energy astrophysics flagship mission.

24 (b) DESIGNATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall des-
2 ignate as a national high-energy astrophysics hub
3 each eligible facility described in paragraph (2).

4 (2) ELIGIBLE FACILITY DESCRIBED.—An eligi-
5 ble facility described in this paragraph is an entity
6 that—

7 (A)(i) is party to a contract with NASA;
8 and

9 (ii) plans and operates missions that con-
10 duct activities for purposes of—

11 (I) ensuring continued United States
12 leadership in high-energy astrophysics and
13 related space sciences;

14 (II) supporting training and workforce
15 development in data-intensive high-energy
16 astrophysics, aerospace engineering, and
17 spacecraft operations;

18 (III) advancing United States capa-
19 bilities in high-performance scientific soft-
20 ware, spaceflight operations, and tech-
21 nology transfer;

22 (IV) enabling future high-energy as-
23 trophysics missions through mission de-
24 sign, planning, and scientific coordination;
25 or

1 (V) serving as a collaborative national
2 resource for academic, governmental, and
3 commercial partners; and

4 (B)(i) is an institution of higher education;
5 (ii) is an appropriate State or Federal enti-
6 ty, including a federally funded research and
7 development center; or

8 (iii) is a nongovernmental organization
9 with expertise in advanced energy technology
10 research, development, demonstration, or com-
11 mercial application.

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