

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4264

To provide NASA the authority to detect, identify, monitor, and track
unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2026

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

A BILL

To provide NASA the authority to detect, identify, monitor,
and track unmanned aircraft systems, and for other pur-
poses.

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 UAS Detection
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO UNMANNED AIR-**
 2 **CRAFT SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION AND DETEC-**
 3 **TION.**

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:

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

11 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
 13 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
 14 gress’ means—

15 “(A) the Committee on Commerce,
 16 Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

17 “(B) the Committee on Transportation
 18 and Infrastructure and the Committee on
 19 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of
 20 Representatives.

21 “(2) COVERED FACILITY OR ASSET.—The term
 22 ‘covered facility or asset’ means a facility or asset of
 23 the Administration that—

24 “(A) is a NASA center; or

1 “(B) is located within the property of the
2 National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
3 tion.

4 “(3) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION; INTER-
5 CEPT; ORAL COMMUNICATION; WIRE COMMUNICA-
6 TION.—The terms ‘electronic communication’, ‘inter-
7 cept’, ‘oral communication’, and ‘wire communica-
8 tion’ have the meanings given those terms in section
9 2510 of title 18.

10 “(4) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term
11 ‘intelligence community’ has the meaning given the
12 term in section 3 of the National Security Act of
13 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

14 “(5) PERSONNEL.—

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

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

24 “(i) Be directly contracted by the Ad-
25 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 “(6) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIR-
15 CRAFT SYSTEM.—The terms ‘unmanned aircraft’
16 and ‘unmanned aircraft system’ have the meanings
17 given those terms in section 44801 of title 49.

18 “(b) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding sections 1030
19 and 1367 and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18, the Ad-
20 ministrators may take, and may authorize personnel with
21 assigned duties that include the security or protection of
22 people, facilities, or assets to take, the actions described
23 in subsection (c) that are necessary to detect, identify,
24 monitor, and track an unmanned aircraft system or un-
25 manned aircraft that poses a credible threat (as defined

1 by the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary
2 of Transportation) to the safety or security of a covered
3 facility or asset.

4 “(c) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—The actions described in
5 this subsection are limited to such actions to detect, iden-
6 tify, monitor, or track the unmanned aircraft systems or
7 unmanned aircraft, without prior consent, including by
8 means of intercept or other access of a wire communica-
9 tion, an oral communication, or an electronic communica-
10 tion used to control the unmanned aircraft system or un-
11 manned aircraft.

12 “(d) REQUIRED COORDINATION.—The Administrator
13 shall develop the actions described in subsection (c) in co-
14 ordination with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
15 Administration.

16 “(e) TRAINING OF PERSONNEL.—The Administrator,
17 in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal
18 Aviation Administration, shall provide training on the ac-
19 tions described in subsection (c) to personnel authorized
20 to take such actions.

21 “(f) AVIATION SAFETY.—In carrying out any activity
22 under this section, the Administrator shall coordinate with
23 the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration
24 in the case of any action authorized under this section that
25 might affect aviation safety, civilian aviation and aero-

1 space operations, aircraft airworthiness, or the use of the
2 airspace.

3 “(g) IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COV-
4 ERED FACILITIES OR ASSETS.—

5 “(1) INVENTORY.—The Administrator shall
6 identify each covered facility or asset.

7 “(2) RISK-BASED ASSESSMENT.—The Adminis-
8 trator, in coordination with the Administrator of the
9 Federal Aviation Administration, shall conduct a
10 risk-based assessment of each covered facility or
11 asset identified with respect to the risk that a cred-
12 ible threat by an unmanned aircraft system or un-
13 manned aircraft poses to the operation of each such
14 covered facility or asset, that includes an evaluation
15 of the following:

16 “(A) Threat information specific to each
17 such covered facility or asset.

18 “(B) Each of the following factors, with
19 respect to potential impacts on the safety and
20 efficiency of the national airspace system and
21 law enforcement and national security needs
22 while carrying out the actions described in sub-
23 section (c):

24 “(i) Potential effects to safety, effi-
25 ciency, or use of the national airspace sys-

1 tem, including potential effects on a
2 manned aircraft, an unmanned aircraft
3 system or unmanned aircraft, aviation
4 safety, airport operations, infrastructure,
5 or air navigation services related to the use
6 of any system or technology for carrying
7 out the actions described in subsection (c).

8 “(ii) Options for minimizing any iden-
9 tified effect to the national airspace system
10 related to the use of any system or tech-
11 nology, including minimizing any effect to
12 civil aviation or air traffic control systems,
13 for carrying out the actions described in
14 subsection (c).

15 “(iii) Potential consequences of the
16 impacts of any actions described in sub-
17 section (c) to the national airspace system
18 or infrastructure if not detected, identified,
19 monitored, or tracked.

20 “(iv) The ability to provide reasonable
21 advance notice to aircraft operators con-
22 sistent with the safety of the national air-
23 space system and the needs of law enforce-
24 ment and national security.

1 “(v) The setting and character of the
2 covered facility or asset at issue, including
3 the following:

4 “(I) Whether the covered facility
5 or asset is located in a populated area
6 or near other structures.

7 “(II) Whether the covered facility
8 or asset is open to the public.

9 “(III) Whether the covered facil-
10 ity or asset is used for nongovern-
11 mental functions.

12 “(IV) Any potential for inter-
13 ference with wireless communications
14 or for injury or damage to persons or
15 property.

16 “(vi) Potential consequences to na-
17 tional security, public safety, or law en-
18 forcement if a credible threat posed by an
19 unmanned aircraft system or unmanned
20 aircraft to the covered facility or asset at
21 issue is not detected, identified, monitored,
22 or tracked.

23 “(C) DISTRIBUTION.—Not later than 180
24 days after the date of the enactment of this sec-
25 tion, and annually thereafter, the Administrator

1 shall distribute to each relevant department or
2 agency (including the Department of Transpor-
3 tation) and the appropriate committees of Con-
4 gress, through appropriate means, a list of fa-
5 cilities and assets identified as covered facilities
6 or assets.

7 “(h) TECHNOLOGIES.—Technologies used by the Ad-
8 ministration to take actions described in subsection (c)
9 shall be limited to systems or technologies that are in-
10 cluded on a list of authorized technologies maintained
11 jointly by the Department of Justice, the Department of
12 Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the De-
13 partment of Transportation, the Federal Communications
14 Commission, the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
15 istration, and the National Telecommunications and Infor-
16 mation Administration.

17 “(i) GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES.—The Adminis-
18 trator and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Ad-
19 ministration—

20 “(1) shall issue guidance, and may prescribe
21 appropriate procedures as necessary, for the Admin-
22 istrator to carry out this section; and

23 “(2) in developing such guidance and proce-
24 dures, shall consult the Chairman of the Federal
25 Communications Commission, the Assistant Sec-

1 retary of Commerce for Communications and Infor-
2 mation, the Secretary of Transportation, and the
3 head of any other agency determined appropriate by
4 the Administrator.

5 “(j) COORDINATION.—

6 “(1) COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL AVIATION
7 ADMINISTRATION.—With respect to the development
8 of guidance under subsection (i), the Adminis-
9 trator—

10 “(A) shall coordinate with the Adminis-
11 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration;
12 and

13 “(B) may coordinate with the heads of
14 other agencies, as determined relevant by the
15 Administrator.

16 “(2) EFFECT ON AVIATION SAFETY.—The Ad-
17 ministrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of
18 Transportation and the Administrator of the Federal
19 Aviation Administration before issuing any guidance
20 or otherwise implementing this section, if such guid-
21 ance or implementation might affect aviation safety,
22 civilian aviation and aerospace operations, aircraft
23 airworthiness, or the use of airspace.

1 “(k) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—The guidance or proce-
2 dures issued to carry out an action described in subsection
3 (c) by the Administrator shall ensure the following:

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

11 “(2) Any communication to or from an un-
12 manned aircraft system or an unmanned aircraft is
13 intercepted or acquired only to the extent necessary
14 to support an action described in subsection (c).

15 “(3) Any record of such communication is
16 maintained only for as long as necessary, and in no
17 event for more than 180 days, unless the Adminis-
18 trator, in consultation with the Attorney General,
19 determines that maintenance of such records is nec-
20 essary to investigate or prosecute a violation of law
21 or to directly support an ongoing security operation.

22 “(4) Such communications are not disclosed to
23 any person not employed or contracted by the Ad-
24 ministration for the purposes of carrying out this
25 section unless the disclosure—

1 “(A) is necessary to investigate or pros-
 2 ecute a violation of law, including by the De-
 3 partment of Defense or a Federal law enforce-
 4 ment agency;

5 “(B) would support the enforcement activi-
 6 ties of a regulatory agency of the Federal Gov-
 7 ernment in connection with a criminal or civil
 8 investigation of, or any regulatory, statutory, or
 9 other enforcement action relating to, an action
 10 described in subsection (c); or

11 “(C) is otherwise required by law.

12 “(l) SEMIANNUAL BRIEFINGS AND NOTIFICA-
 13 TIONS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On a semiannual basis be-
 15 ginning 6 months after the date of the enactment of
 16 this section, the Administrator shall provide a brief-
 17 ing to the appropriate committees of Congress on
 18 the activities carried out pursuant to this section.

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

21 “(A) Information relating to policies, pro-
 22 grams, and procedures to minimize or eliminate
 23 impacts of the actions carried out pursuant to
 24 subsection (c) to the national airspace system.

25 “(B) A description of the following:

1 “(i) Each instance that an action de-
2 scribed in subsection (c) was taken, includ-
3 ing any such instance that may have re-
4 sulted in harm, damage, or loss to a per-
5 son or to private property.

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

14 “(iii) Options considered and steps
15 taken by the Administrator to minimize
16 any identified impacts to the national air-
17 space system related to the use of any sys-
18 tem or technology, including minimizing
19 any effects to civil aviation or air traffic
20 control systems, for carrying out the ac-
21 tions described in subsection (c).

22 “(iv) Such consultation conducted by
23 the Administrator with other agencies with
24 respect to each action described under
25 clauses (ii) and (iii).

1 “(v) Each instance in which a commu-
2 nication intercepted or acquired as a result
3 of an action described in subsection (c)
4 taken during operations of an unmanned
5 aircraft system or unmanned aircraft
6 was—

7 “(I) held in the possession of the
8 Administration for more than 180
9 days; or

10 “(II) shared with any entity
11 other than the Administration.

12 “(C) An explanation of how the Adminis-
13 trator—

14 “(i) informed the public with respect
15 to the possible use of authorities granted
16 under this section; and

17 “(ii) engaged with Federal, State,
18 local, Tribal, and territorial law enforce-
19 ment agencies to implement and use such
20 authorities.

21 “(D) An assessment of whether any gaps
22 or insufficiencies in laws, regulations, or policies
23 impede the ability of the Administration to de-
24 tect, identify, monitor, or track the credible
25 threat posed by malicious, inappropriate, or un-

1 authorized use of an unmanned aircraft system
2 or unmanned aircraft to the safety or security
3 of a covered facility or asset.

4 “(E) Recommendations to remedy any
5 such gaps or insufficiencies, including rec-
6 ommendations relating to the potential need for
7 changes in laws, regulations, or policies, as ap-
8 propriate.

9 “(3) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—Each briefing re-
10 quired under paragraph (1) shall be unclassified but
11 may be accompanied by an additional classified
12 briefing.

13 “(m) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—This section may not
14 be interpreted to provide the Administrator with any addi-
15 tional authority other than the authorities described in
16 subsections (b) and (g).

17 “(n) TERMINATION.—This section shall cease to have
18 effect on September 30, 2031.

19 “(o) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
20 tion may be construed—

21 “(1) to vest in the Administrator any authority
22 of the head of any other Federal agency;

23 “(2) to vest in the head of any other Federal
24 agency any authority of the Administrator; or

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