

Public Law 96-316
96th Congress

An Act

July 30, 1980
[S. 2240]

To authorize appropriations to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for research and development, construction of facilities, and research and program management, and for other purposes.

National
Aeronautics and
Space
Administration
Authorization
Act, 1981.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to become available October 1, 1980:

(a) For "Research and development", for the following programs:

- (1) Space Shuttle, \$1,873,000,000;
- (2) Space flight operations, \$779,500,000;
- (3) Expendable launch vehicles, \$55,700,000;
- (4) Physics and astronomy, \$352,700,000;
- (5) Planetary exploration, \$179,600,000;
- (6) Life sciences, \$45,200,000;
- (7) Space applications, \$378,700,000;
- (8) Technology utilization, \$12,600,000;
- (9) Aeronautical research and technology, \$290,800,000;
- (10) Space research and technology, \$115,200,000;
- (11) Energy technology, \$4,000,000; and
- (12) Tracking and data acquisition, \$349,750,000.

Facilities,
construction.

(b) For "Construction of facilities", including land acquisition, as follows:

- (1) Construction of man-vehicle systems research facility, Ames Research Center, \$7,480,000;
- (2) Modification of steam ejector system and thermal protection laboratory, Ames Research Center, \$2,300,000;
- (3) Modification of the unitary plan wind tunnel, Ames Research Center, \$3,400,000;
- (4) Modifications to various buildings for energy conservation, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, \$1,500,000;
- (5) Modifications to various buildings for seismic protection, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, \$2,000,000;
- (6) Rehabilitation of high temperature hot water system, zone 2, industrial area, John F. Kennedy Space Center, \$760,000;
- (7) Modifications for avionics integration research laboratory, Langley Research Center, \$5,756,000;
- (8) Modifications to aircraft landing dynamics facility, Langley Research Center, \$15,000,000;
- (9) Rehabilitation and modification of gas dynamics laboratory, Langley Research Center, \$2,000,000;
- (10) Decommissioning of Plum Brook Station reactor facility, Lewis Research Center, \$1,000,000;
- (11) Modifications to central air system, various buildings, Lewis Research Center, \$7,655,000;
- (12) Rehabilitation of electrical switchgear, engine research building, Lewis Research Center, \$1,700,000;

(13) Rehabilitation of roof, Phase II, Building 103, Michoud Assembly Facility, \$3,800,000;

(14) Rehabilitation of chilled water system, Michoud Assembly Facility, \$782,000;

(15) Modification of 26-meter antenna, DSS-44, Canberra, Australia, \$1,200,000;

(16) Replacement of azimuth radial bearing, DSS-14, Goldstone, California, \$950,000;

(17) Space Shuttle facilities at various locations as follows:

(A) Modification of manufacturing and final assembly facilities for external tanks, Michoud Assembly Facility, \$5,400,000;

(B) Modifications to solid rocket motor manufacturing and assembly facilities, Thiokol plant, Wasatch, Utah, \$2,700,000;

(C) Minor Shuttle-unique projects, various locations, \$2,000,000;

(18) Space Shuttle payload facility: Rehabilitation and modification for payload ground support operations, John F. Kennedy Space Center, \$1,617,000;

(19) Repair of facilities at various locations, not in excess of \$500,000 per project, \$15,000,000;

(20) Rehabilitation and modification of facilities at various locations, not in excess of \$500,000 per project, \$20,000,000;

(21) Minor construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities at various locations, not in excess of \$250,000 per project, \$4,000,000; and

(22) Facility planning and design not otherwise provided for, \$10,000,000.

(c) For "Research and program management", \$1,033,154,000 and such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in salary, pay, retirement, or other employee benefits authorized by law.

Research and
program
management.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1(g), appropriations hereby authorized for "Research and development" may be used (1) for any items of a capital nature (other than acquisition of land) which may be required at locations other than installations of the Administration for the performance of research and development contracts, and (2) for grants to nonprofit institutions of higher education, or to nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is the conduct of scientific research, for purchase or construction of additional research facilities; and title to such facilities shall be vested in the United States unless the Administrator determines that the national program of aeronautical and space activities will best be served by vesting title in any such grantee institution or organization. Each such grant shall be made under such conditions as the Administrator shall determine to be required to insure that the United States will receive therefrom benefit adequate to justify the making of that grant. None of the funds appropriated for "Research and development" pursuant to this Act may be used in accordance with this subsection for the construction of any major facility, the estimated cost of which, including collateral equipment, exceeds \$250,000, unless the Administrator or his designee has notified the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Research and
development.

Transportation of the Senate of the nature, location, and estimated cost of such facility.

(e) When so specified and to the extent provided in an appropriation act, (1) any amount appropriated for "Research and development" or for "Construction of facilities" may remain available without fiscal year limitation, and (2) maintenance and operation of facilities, and support services contracts may be entered into under the "Research and program management" appropriation for periods not in excess of twelve months beginning at any time during the fiscal year.

Scientific consultations or extraordinary expenses.

(f) Appropriations made pursuant to subsection 1(c) may be used, but not to exceed \$25,000, for scientific consultations or extraordinary expenses upon the approval or authority of the Administrator and his determination shall be final and conclusive upon the accounting officers of the Government.

(g) Of the funds appropriated pursuant to subsections 1(a) and 1(c), not in excess of \$75,000 for each project, including collateral equipment, may be used for construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, and for repair, rehabilitation, or modification of facilities: *Provided*, That, of the funds appropriated pursuant to subsection 1(a), not in excess of \$250,000 for each project, including collateral equipment, may be used for any of the foregoing for unforeseen programmatic needs.

SEC. 2. Authorization is hereby granted whereby any of the amounts prescribed in paragraphs (1) through (21), inclusive, of subsection 1(b)—

(1) in the discretion of the Administrator or his designee, may be varied upward 10 percent, or

Report to congressional committees.

(2) following a report by the Administrator or his designee to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the circumstances of such action, may be varied upward 25 percent,

to meet unusual cost variations, but the total cost of all work authorized under such paragraphs shall not exceed the total of the amounts specified in such paragraphs.

Transfer of funds.

SEC. 3. Not to exceed one-half of 1 percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to subsection 1(a) hereof may be transferred to the "Construction of facilities" appropriation, and, when so transferred, together with \$10,000,000 of the funds appropriated pursuant to subsection 1(b) hereof (other than funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (22) of such subsection) shall be available for expenditure to construct, expand, or modify laboratories and other installations at any location (including locations specified in subsection 1(b)), if (1) the Administrator determines such action to be necessary because of changes in the national program of aeronautical and space activities or new scientific or engineering developments, and (2) he determines that deferral of such action until the enactment of the next authorization act would be inconsistent with the interest of the Nation in aeronautical and space activities. The funds so made available may be expended to acquire, construct, convert, rehabilitate, or install permanent or temporary public works, including land acquisition, site preparation, appurtenances, utilities, and equipment. No portion of such sums may be obligated for expenditure or expended to construct, expand, or modify laboratories and other installations unless (A) a period of thirty days has passed after the Administrator or his designee has transmitted to the Speaker of the House of

Representatives and to the President of the Senate and to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written report containing a full and complete statement concerning (1) the nature of such construction, expansion, or modification, (2) the cost thereof including the cost of any real estate action pertaining thereto, and (3) the reason why such construction, expansion, or modification is necessary in the national interest, or (B) each such committee before the expiration of such period has transmitted to the Administrator written notice to the effect that such committee has no objection to the proposed action.

SEC. 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act—

(1) no amount appropriated pursuant to this Act may be used for any program deleted by the Congress from requests as originally made to either the House Committee on Science and Technology or the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,

(2) no amount appropriated pursuant to this Act may be used for any program in excess of the amount actually authorized for that particular program by subsections 1(a) and 1(c), and

(3) no amount appropriated pursuant to this Act may be used for any program which has not been presented to or requested of either such committee,

unless (A) a period of thirty days has passed after the receipt by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate and each such committee of notice given by the Administrator or his designee containing a full and complete statement of the action proposed to be taken and the facts and circumstances relied upon in support of such proposed action, or (B) each such committee before the expiration of such period has transmitted to the Administrator written notice to the effect that such committee has no objection to the proposed action.

SEC. 5. It is the sense of the Congress that it is in the national interest that consideration be given to geographical distribution of Federal research funds whenever feasible, and that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should explore ways and means of distributing its research and development funds whenever feasible.

SEC. 6. This Act may be cited as the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, 1981”.

Federal research funds, geographical distribution. 42 USC 2459 note.

Short title.

Approved July 30, 1980.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 96-899 accompanying H.R. 6413 (Comm. on Science and Technology) and No. 96-1142 (Comm. of Conference).

SENATE REPORT No. 96-719 (Comm. on Commerce, Science and Transportation).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):

June 3, considered and passed Senate.

June 13, H.R. 6413 considered and passed House; passage vacated and S. 2240, amended, passed in lieu.

July 2, House agreed to conference report.

July 21, Senate agreed to conference report.