

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1526

To promote the international competitiveness of the United States commercial space industry, to ensure access to space for the Federal Government and the private sector, and to minimize the opportunities for the transfer to other nations of critical satellite technologies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Florida (for himself and Mrs. CAPPS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To promote the international competitiveness of the United States commercial space industry, to ensure access to space for the Federal Government and the private sector, and to minimize the opportunities for the transfer to other nations of critical satellite technologies.

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 “Commercial Space
5 Competitiveness Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) the commercial space industry is an essen-
2 tial part of the United States economy and opportu-
3 nities for United States companies are growing as
4 international markets expand;

5 (2) the Federal Government should continue to
6 encourage, facilitate, and promote the use of the
7 United States commercial space industry in order to
8 continue United States aerospace preeminence;

9 (3) the United States commercial space indus-
10 try must be competitive in the international market-
11 place;

12 (4) Federal Government policies should recog-
13 nize the responsibility of the United States under
14 international treaties for activities conducted by
15 United States citizens in space;

16 (5) the United States must limit the opportuni-
17 ties for the transfer of critical satellite technologies
18 by providing efficient range infrastructure to ensure
19 access to space for both the Government and private
20 sector;

21 (6) the United States must maintain a competi-
22 tive advantage in international commercial space by
23 providing the private sector with equal access to
24 launch opportunities, launch property, and launch
25 services at the Nation's ranges;

1 (7) infrastructure at United States launch
2 ranges is outdated and inefficient and the rate at
3 which launch opportunities are lost due to range
4 failures has tripled in the past 2 years;

5 (8) demand for range infrastructure at Federal
6 Government ranges will exceed supply beginning in
7 the year 2002; and

8 (9) the current level of Federal funding for the
9 Nation's launch ranges is inadequate to provide the
10 Nation's projected demand for range capacity.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 Section 70102 of title 49, United States Code, is
13 amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (3) by striking “, when those
15 activities take place at a launch site in the United
16 States”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (4) by inserting “or improved
18 or unimproved real property or facilities used in,”
19 after “or used in,”.

20 **SEC. 4. GENERAL AUTHORITY.**

21 Section 70103(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code,
22 is amended by striking “encourage, facilitate, and pro-
23 mote” and inserting “encourage and facilitate”.

1 **SEC. 5. LAUNCH SCHEDULES.**

2 Section 70109 of title 49, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
5 section (d); and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(c) SCHEDULING.—In the scheduling of launches at
9 a United States Government launch site, private sector
10 launches shall be provided the greatest possible access to
11 launch opportunities at the earliest dates possible at such
12 launch site.”.

13 **SEC. 6. ACQUIRING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PROP-**
14 **ERTY AND SERVICES.**

15 Section 70111 of title 49, United States Code, is
16 amended—

17 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
18 lows:

19 “(a) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of Transportation
20 shall facilitate and encourage the acquisition by the pri-
21 vate sector and State governments of Federal property
22 and services, including utilities, for the support of com-
23 mercial launch efforts.”;

24 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(A) by striking “and”;

25 (3) in subsection (b)(1)(B) by striking the pe-
26 riod and inserting “; or”;

1 (4) by adding at the end of subsection (b)(1)
 2 the following new subparagraph:

3 “(C) the Government agency charges other
 4 Government agencies.”;

5 (5) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
 6 subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

7 (6) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 8 lowing new subsection:

9 “(c) PUBLIC NOTICE.—At least 30 days before any
 10 property is acquired pursuant to this section the head of
 11 the agency from which the property is to be acquired shall
 12 provide appropriate public notice of the proposed acquisi-
 13 tion.”.

14 **SEC. 7. PAYING CLAIMS EXCEEDING LIABILITY INSURANCE.**

15 Section 70113 of title 49, United States Code, is
 16 amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)(1) and subsection (d)(2)
 18 by striking “launch or reentry” and inserting “li-
 19 censed activity”; and

20 (2) in subsection (f) by striking “1999” and in-
 21 serting “2009”.

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