

Union Calendar No. 243

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1292

[Report No. 108–423]

To encourage the development and integrated use by the public and private sectors of remote sensing and other geospatial information, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. PICKERING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

FEBRUARY 18, 2004

Additional sponsors: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BOEHLERT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania

FEBRUARY 18, 2004

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 13, 2003]

A BILL

To encourage the development and integrated use by the public and private sectors of remote sensing and other geospatial information, 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 “Remote Sensing Appli-*
5 *cations Act of 2004”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *The Congress finds that—*

8 (1) *although urban land use planning, growth*
9 *management, and other functions of State, local, re-*
10 *gional, and tribal agencies are rightfully within their*
11 *jurisdiction, the Federal Government can and should*
12 *play an important role in the development and dem-*
13 *onstration of innovative techniques to improve com-*
14 *prehensive land use planning and growth manage-*
15 *ment;*

16 (2) *the United States is making a major invest-*
17 *ment in acquiring remote sensing and other*
18 *geospatial information from both governmental and*
19 *commercial sources;*

20 (3) *while much of the data is being acquired for*
21 *scientific and national security purposes, it also can*
22 *have important applications to help meet societal*
23 *goals;*

24 (4) *it has already been demonstrated that*
25 *Landsat data and other earth observation data can be*

1 of enormous assistance to Federal, State, local, re-
2 gional, and tribal agencies for urban land use plan-
3 ning, coastal zone management, natural and cultural
4 resource management, and disaster monitoring;

5 (5) remote sensing, coupled with the emergence of
6 geographic information systems and satellite-based
7 positioning information, offers the capability of devel-
8 oping important new applications of integrated sets
9 of geospatial information to address societal needs;

10 (6) the full range of applications of remote sens-
11 ing and other forms of geospatial information to
12 meeting public sector requirements has not been ade-
13 quately explored or exploited;

14 (7) the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992,
15 Presidential Decision Directive 23 of 1994, and the
16 Commercial Space Act of 1998 all support and pro-
17 mote the development of United States commercial re-
18 mote sensing capabilities;

19 (8) many State, local, regional, tribal, and Fed-
20 eral agencies are unaware of the utility of remote
21 sensing and other geospatial information for meeting
22 their needs, even when research has demonstrated the
23 potential applications of that information;

24 (9) even when aware of the utility of remote
25 sensing and geospatial technologies in the area of

1 *wildland fire management to detect and monitor a*
2 *wildland fire in real-time from the early stages of fire*
3 *growth, many State, local, regional, and tribal agen-*
4 *cies are hampered by a lack of overall strategy guid-*
5 *ing interagency management of resources and tech-*
6 *nology, according to a September 2003 Government*
7 *Accounting Office report;*

8 *(10) remote sensing and other geospatial infor-*
9 *mation, especially when used in a coordinated ap-*
10 *proach, can be particularly useful to State, local, re-*
11 *gional, and tribal agencies in the area of urban plan-*
12 *ning, especially in their efforts to plan for and man-*
13 *age the impacts of growth, development, and sprawl,*
14 *as well as in wildland fire management and environ-*
15 *mental impact and disaster relief planning and man-*
16 *agement;*

17 *(11) the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-*
18 *ministration, in coordination with other agencies, can*
19 *play a unique role in demonstrating how data ac-*
20 *quired for scientific purposes, when combined with*
21 *other data sources and processing capabilities, can be*
22 *applied to assist State, local, regional, and tribal*
23 *agencies and the private sector in decisionmaking in*
24 *such areas as agriculture, weather forecasting, and*
25 *forest management; and*

1 (12) *in addition, the National Aeronautics and*
2 *Space Administration, in conjunction with other*
3 *agencies, can play a unique role in stimulating the*
4 *development of the remote sensing and other*
5 *geospatial information sector through pilot projects to*
6 *demonstrate the value of integrating governmental*
7 *and commercial remote sensing data with geographic*
8 *information systems and satellite-based positioning*
9 *data to provide useful applications products.*

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

11 *In this Act—*

12 (1) *the term “Administrator” means the Admin-*
13 *istrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-*
14 *ministration;*

15 (2) *the term “geospatial information” means*
16 *knowledge of the nature and distribution of physical*
17 *and cultural features on the landscape based on anal-*
18 *ysis of data from airborne or spaceborne platforms or*
19 *other types and sources of data; and*

20 (3) *the term “institution of higher education”*
21 *has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of*
22 *the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.*
23 *1001(a)).*

1 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROJECTS TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SECTOR**
2 **APPLICATIONS.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator shall establish*
4 *a program of grants for competitively awarded pilot*
5 *projects to explore the integrated use of sources of remote*
6 *sensing and other geospatial information to address State,*
7 *local, regional, and tribal agency needs.*

8 (b) *PREFERRED PROJECTS.*—*In awarding grants*
9 *under this section, the Administrator shall give preference*
10 *to projects that—*

11 (1) *make use of existing public or commercial*
12 *data sets;*

13 (2) *integrate multiple sources of geospatial infor-*
14 *mation, such as geographic information system data,*
15 *satellite-provided positioning data, and remotely*
16 *sensed data, in innovative ways;*

17 (3) *include funds or in-kind contributions from*
18 *non-Federal sources;*

19 (4) *involve the participation of commercial enti-*
20 *ties that process raw or lightly processed data, often*
21 *merging that data with other geospatial information,*
22 *to create data products that have significant value*
23 *added to the original data; and*

24 (5) *taken together demonstrate as diverse a set of*
25 *public sector applications as possible.*

1 (c) *OPPORTUNITIES.*—*In carrying out this section, the*
2 *Administrator shall seek opportunities to assist—*

3 (1) *in the development of commercial applica-*
4 *tions potentially available from the remote sensing in-*
5 *dustry;*

6 (2) *State, local, regional, and tribal agencies in*
7 *applying remote sensing and other geospatial infor-*
8 *mation technologies for growth management; and*

9 (3) *State, local, regional, and tribal agencies in*
10 *obtaining and utilizing satellite, aviation, and sensor*
11 *capabilities for wildland fire detection, analysis, and*
12 *observation.*

13 (d) *DURATION.*—*Assistance for a pilot project under*
14 *subsection (a) shall be provided for a period not to exceed*
15 *3 years.*

16 (e) *REPORT.*—*Each recipient of a grant under sub-*
17 *section (a) shall transmit a report to the Administrator on*
18 *the results of the pilot project within 180 days of the com-*
19 *pletion of that project.*

20 (f) *WORKSHOP.*—*Each recipient of a grant under sub-*
21 *section (a) shall, not later than 180 days after the comple-*
22 *tion of the pilot project, conduct at least one workshop for*
23 *potential users to disseminate the lessons learned from the*
24 *pilot project as widely as feasible.*

1 (g) *REGULATIONS.*—*The Administrator shall issue reg-*
2 *ulations establishing application, selection, and implemen-*
3 *tation procedures for pilot projects, and guidelines for re-*
4 *ports and workshops required by this section.*

5 **SEC. 5. PROGRAM EVALUATION.**

6 (a) *ADVISORY COMMITTEE.*—*The Administrator shall*
7 *establish an advisory committee, consisting of individuals*
8 *with appropriate expertise in State, local, regional, and*
9 *tribal agencies, the university research community, and the*
10 *remote sensing and other geospatial information industry,*
11 *to monitor the program established under section 4. The ad-*
12 *visory committee shall consult with the Federal Geographic*
13 *Data Committee and other appropriate industry represent-*
14 *atives and organizations. Notwithstanding section 14 of the*
15 *Federal Advisory Committee Act, the advisory committee*
16 *established under this subsection shall remain in effect until*
17 *the termination of the program under section 4.*

18 (b) *EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION.*—*Not later than De-*
19 *cember 31, 2008, the Administrator shall transmit to the*
20 *Congress an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program*
21 *established under section 4 in exploring and promoting the*
22 *integrated use of sources of remote sensing and other*
23 *geospatial information to address State, local, regional, and*
24 *tribal agency needs. Such evaluation shall have been con-*
25 *ducted by an independent entity.*

1 **SEC. 6. DATA AVAILABILITY.**

2 *The Administrator shall ensure that the results of each*
3 *of the pilot projects completed under section 4 shall be re-*
4 *trievable through an electronic, Internet-accessible database.*

5 **SEC. 7. EDUCATION.**

6 *The Administrator shall establish an educational out-*
7 *reach program to increase awareness at institutions of high-*
8 *er education and State, local, regional, and tribal agencies*
9 *of the potential applications of remote sensing and other*
10 *geospatial information.*

11 **SEC. 8. COST SENSITIVITY STUDY.**

12 *The Administrator shall conduct a study of the effect*
13 *of remote sensing imagery costs on potential State, local,*
14 *regional, and tribal agency applications. The study shall*
15 *identify applications that are likely to be most affected by*
16 *reductions in the cost of remote sensing imagery. Not later*
17 *than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,*
18 *the Administrator shall transmit to the Congress the results*
19 *of the study conducted under this section.*

20 **SEC. 9. REPORT.**

21 *Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment*
22 *of this Act, the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-*
23 *tration shall submit to Congress a report on how agencies*
24 *are implementing the recommendations contained in the*
25 *September 2003 General Accounting Office report entitled*

1 *“Geospatial Information: Technologies Hold Promise for*
2 *Wildland Fire Management, but Challenges Remain”.*

3 ***SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.***

4 *There are authorized to be appropriated to the Admin-*
5 *istrator \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005*
6 *through 2009 to carry out this Act.*

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