

Union Calendar No. 96

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R. 1022****[Report No. 109-158]**

To provide for a Near-Earth Object Survey program to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize certain near-earth asteroids and comets.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. WEINER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

JUNE 27, 2005

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To provide for a Near-Earth Object Survey program to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize certain near-earth asteroids and comets.

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 “George E. Brown, Jr.
5 Near-Earth Object Survey Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Near-Earth objects pose a serious and cred-
4 ible threat to humankind, as scientists are certain
5 that a major asteroid or comet was responsible for
6 the mass extinction of the majority of the Earth's
7 species, including the dinosaurs, nearly 65,000,000
8 years ago.

9 (2) Similar objects have struck the Earth or
10 passed through the Earth's atmosphere several times
11 in the Earth's history and pose a similar threat in
12 the future.

13 (3) Several such near-Earth objects have only
14 been discovered within days of the objects' closest
15 approach to Earth, and recent discoveries of such
16 large objects indicate that many large near-Earth
17 objects remain undiscovered.

18 (4) The efforts taken to date by the National
19 Aeronautics and Space Administration for detecting
20 and characterizing the hazards of Earth orbit-cross-
21 ing asteroids and comets are not sufficient to the
22 threat posed by such objects to cause widespread de-
23 struction and loss of life.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION.**

2 For purposes of this Act, the term “Administrator”
3 means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and
4 Space Administration.

5 **SEC. 4. NEAR-EARTH OBJECT SURVEY.**

6 (a) SURVEY PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall
7 plan, develop, and implement a Near-Earth Object Survey
8 program to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize the
9 physical characteristics of near-Earth asteroids and com-
10 ets equal to or greater than 100 meters in diameter in
11 order to assess the threat of such near-Earth objects in
12 striking the Earth.

13 (b) AMENDMENTS.—Section 102 of the National Aer-
14 onautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451) is
15 amended—

16 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
17 section (h);

18 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
19 lowing new subsection:

20 “(g) The Congress declares that the general welfare
21 and security of the United States require that the unique
22 competence of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
23 ministration in science and engineering systems be di-
24 rected to detecting, tracking, cataloguing, and character-
25 izing near-Earth asteroids and comets in order to provide

1 warning and mitigation of the potential hazard of such
2 near-Earth objects impacting the Earth.”; and

3 (3) in subsection (h), as so redesignated by
4 paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “and
5 (f)” and inserting “(f), and (g)”.

6 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall
7 transmit to the Congress, not later than February 28 of
8 each of the next 5 years beginning after the date of enact-
9 ment of this Act, a report that provides the following:

10 (1) A summary of all activities taken pursuant
11 to subsection (a) for the previous fiscal year.

12 (2) A summary of expenditures for all activities
13 pursuant to subsection (a) for the previous fiscal
14 year.

15 (3) A detailed plan and budget request for all
16 activities pursuant to subsection (a) for the next five
17 fiscal years from the year that the annual report is
18 submitted.

19 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to the National Aero-
21 nautics and Space Administration for the Near-Earth Ob-
22 ject Survey program described in subsection (a)
23 \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 and 2007.
24 Amounts appropriated under this subsection shall remain
25 available for 2 fiscal years.

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