

Union Calendar No. 95

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 426

[Report No. 109-157]

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

JANUARY 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

JUNE 27, 2005

Additional sponsor: Mr. WALSH

JUNE 27, 2005

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 January 26, 2005]

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Remote Sensing Appli-*
3 *cations Act of 2005”.*

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 *The Congress finds that—*

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

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

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

22 *(4) it has already been demonstrated that*
23 *Landsat, commercial, and other earth observation*
24 *data can be of enormous assistance to Federal, State,*
25 *local, regional, and tribal agencies for urban land use*

1 *planning, coastal zone management, natural and cul-*
2 *tural resource management, and disaster monitoring;*

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

8 *(6) the full range of applications of commercial*
9 *and civil remote sensing and other forms of geospatial*
10 *information to meeting public sector requirements has*
11 *not been adequately explored or exploited;*

12 *(7) the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992,*
13 *Presidential Decision Directive 23 of 1994, the Com-*
14 *mercial Space Act of 1998, and the United States*
15 *Commercial Remote Sensing Policy, issued by the*
16 *President on April 25, 2003, all support and promote*
17 *the development of United States commercial remote*
18 *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) remote sensing and other geospatial informa-*
25 *tion can be particularly useful to State, local, re-*

1 *gional, and tribal agencies in the area of urban plan-*
2 *ning, especially in their efforts to plan for and man-*
3 *age the impacts of growth, development, and sprawl,*
4 *as well as in environmental impact and disaster relief*
5 *planning and management;*

6 *(10) the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-*
7 *ministration, in coordination with other agencies, can*
8 *play a unique role in demonstrating how data ac-*
9 *quired for scientific purposes, when combined with*
10 *other data sources and processing capabilities, can be*
11 *applied to assist State, local, regional, and tribal*
12 *agencies and the private sector in decisionmaking in*
13 *such areas as agriculture, weather forecasting, and*
14 *forest management; and*

15 *(11) in addition, the National Aeronautics and*
16 *Space Administration, in conjunction with other*
17 *agencies, can play a unique role in stimulating the*
18 *development of the remote sensing and other*
19 *geospatial information sectors through pilot projects*
20 *to demonstrate the value of integrating governmental*
21 *and commercial remote sensing data with geographic*
22 *information systems and satellite-based positioning*
23 *data to provide useful applications products.*

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 *In this Act—*

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

4 (2) *the term “geospatial information” means*
5 *knowledge of the nature and distribution of physical*
6 *and cultural features on the landscape based on anal-*
7 *ysis of data from airborne or spaceborne platforms or*
8 *other types and sources of data;*

9 (3) *the term “high resolution” means resolution*
10 *better than five meters; and*

11 (4) *the term “institution of higher education”*
12 *has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of*
13 *the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.*
14 *1001(a)).*

15 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROJECTS TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SECTOR**

16 **APPLICATIONS.**

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

22 (b) *PREFERRED PROJECTS.—In awarding grants*
23 *under this section, the Administrator shall give preference*
24 *to projects that—*

1 (1) *make use of commercial data sets, including*
2 *high resolution commercial satellite imagery and de-*
3 *derived satellite data products, existing public data sets*
4 *where commercial data sets are not available or ap-*
5 *licable, or the fusion of such data sets;*

6 (2) *integrate multiple sources of geospatial infor-*
7 *mation, such as geographic information system data,*
8 *satellite-provided positioning data, and remotely*
9 *sensed data, in innovative ways;*

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

12 (4) *involve the participation of commercial enti-*
13 *ties that process raw or lightly processed data, often*
14 *merging that data with other geospatial information,*
15 *to create data products that have significant value*
16 *added to the original data; and*

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

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

21 (1) *in the development of commercial applica-*
22 *tions potentially available from the remote sensing in-*
23 *dustry; and*

1 (2) *State, local, regional, and tribal agencies in*
2 *applying remote sensing and other geospatial infor-*
3 *mation technologies for growth management.*

4 (d) *DURATION.*—*Assistance for a pilot project under*
5 *subsection (a) shall be provided for a period not to exceed*
6 *3 years.*

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

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

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

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

21 (a) *ADVISORY COMMITTEE.*—*The Administrator shall*
22 *establish an advisory committee, consisting of individuals*
23 *with appropriate expertise in State, local, regional, and*
24 *tribal agencies, the university research community, and the*
25 *remote sensing and other geospatial information industry,*

1 *to monitor the program established under section 4. The ad-*
2 *visory committee shall consult with the Federal Geographic*
3 *Data Committee and other appropriate industry represent-*
4 *atives and organizations. Notwithstanding section 14 of the*
5 *Federal Advisory Committee Act, the advisory committee*
6 *established under this subsection shall remain in effect until*
7 *the termination of the program under section 4.*

8 **(b) EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION.**—*Not later than De-*
9 *cember 31, 2009, the Administrator shall transmit to the*
10 *Congress an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program*
11 *established under section 4 in exploring and promoting the*
12 *integrated use of sources of remote sensing and other*
13 *geospatial information to address State, local, regional, and*
14 *tribal agency needs. Such evaluation shall have been con-*
15 *ducted by an independent entity.*

16 **SEC. 6. DATA AVAILABILITY.**

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

20 **SEC. 7. EDUCATION.**

21 *The Administrator shall establish an educational out-*
22 *reach program to increase awareness at institutions of high-*
23 *er education and State, local, regional, and tribal agencies*
24 *of the potential applications of remote sensing and other*
25 *geospatial information.*

1 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 *There are authorized to be appropriated to the Admin-*
3 *istrator \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006*
4 *through 2010 to carry out this Act.*

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