

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7021

To facilitate access to electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2020

Mr. SOTO (for himself and Mr. FLORES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To facilitate access to electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

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 “Leveraging American
5 Understanding of Next-generation Challenges Exploring
6 Space Act” or the “LAUNCHES Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO SPECTRUM FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE**
8 **LAUNCHES AND REENTRIES.**

9 (a) SERVICE RULES; ALLOCATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-
3 sion shall—

4 (A) adopt service rules for access to the
5 frequencies described in subsection (c) for com-
6 mercial space launches and commercial space
7 reentries, including technical specifications, eli-
8 gibility requirements, and coordination proce-
9 dures to preserve the Nation’s defense capabili-
10 ties; and

11 (B) allocate on a co-primary basis the fre-
12 quencies described in subsection (c) for com-
13 mercial space launches and commercial space
14 reentries.

15 (2) COORDINATION WITH SECRETARY OF DE-
16 FENSE.—The coordination procedures adopted under
17 paragraph (1)(A) shall include requirements for per-
18 sons conducting commercial space launches and
19 commercial space reentries to coordinate with the
20 Secretary of Defense regarding access to the fre-
21 quencies described in subsection (c) for commercial
22 space launches and commercial space reentries.

23 (b) STREAMLINING OF PROCESS FOR GRANTING AU-
24 THORIZATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
25 the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall stream-

1 line the process for granting authorizations for access to
2 the frequencies described in subsection (c) for commercial
3 space launches and commercial space reentries to provide
4 for—

5 (1) authorizations that include access to such
6 frequencies for multiple commercial space launches
7 from one or more space launch sites and multiple
8 commercial space reentries to one or more reentry
9 sites;

10 (2) authorizations that include access to mul-
11 tiple uses of such frequencies for a commercial space
12 launch or commercial space reentry;

13 (3) automation of the processes of the Commis-
14 sion to review applications for authorizations for ac-
15 cess to such frequencies for commercial space
16 launches and commercial space reentries; and

17 (4) improved coordination by the Commission
18 with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Com-
19 munications and Information (who shall coordinate
20 with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of
21 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
22 and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and
23 Atmospheric Administration) to increase the speed
24 of review of applications for authorizations for ac-

1 cess to such frequencies for commercial space
2 launches and commercial space reentries.

3 (c) FREQUENCIES DESCRIBED.—The frequencies de-
4 scribed in this subsection are the following:

5 (1) The frequencies between 2025 megahertz
6 and 2110 megahertz.

7 (2) The frequencies between 2200 megahertz
8 and 2290 megahertz.

9 (3) The frequencies between 2360 megahertz
10 and 2395 megahertz.

11 (4) The frequencies between 5650 megahertz
12 and 5925 megahertz.

13 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Each range of fre-
14 quencies described in this section shall be construed to be
15 inclusive of the upper and lower frequencies in the range.

16 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH.—The term
18 “commercial space launch” means a launch licensed
19 under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code.

20 (2) COMMERCIAL SPACE REENTRY.—The term
21 “commercial space reentry” means a reentry li-
22 censed under chapter 509 of title 51, United States
23 Code.

- 1 (3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
2 means the Federal Communications Commission.

