

Union Calendar No. 427

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 390

[Report No. 119-501]

To utilize the Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response to Operations project of NASA to improve aerial responses to wildfires, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 14, 2025

Mr. FONG (for himself and Ms. McCLELLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

Additional sponsors: Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. NEGUSE

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

Reported with amendments, 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 14, 2025]

A BILL

To utilize the Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response to Operations project of NASA to improve aerial responses to wildfires, 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 “Advanced Capabilities*
5 *for Emergency Response Operations Act” or the “ACERO*
6 *Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED CAPABILITIES FOR EMERGENCY RE-**
8 **SPONSE OPERATIONS.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall leverage*
10 *NASA-developed tools and technologies to conduct research*
11 *and development activities under the Advanced Capabilities*
12 *for Emergency Response Operations (ACERO) project, or*
13 *appropriate successor project or projects, to improve aerial*
14 *responses to wildfires.*

15 *(b) GOALS.—The research and development activities*
16 *conducted under subsection (a) may include the following:*

17 *(1) Advanced aircraft technologies and airspace*
18 *management efforts to assist in the management,*
19 *deconfliction, and coordination of aerial assets during*
20 *wildfire response efforts.*

21 *(2) Information sharing and real-time data ex-*
22 *change for wildfire response teams.*

23 *(3) Development of an interoperable platform to*
24 *provide situational awareness of aerial assets during*
25 *wildfire response.*

1 (4) *Establishment of a multi-agency concept of*
2 *operations, which may involve Federal, State, and*
3 *local government agencies, to enable coordination of*
4 *aerial activities for wildfire response.*

5 (c) *COLLABORATION.—In carrying out this section, the*
6 *Administrator—*

7 (1) *may coordinate and collaborate with other*
8 *Federal, State, and local government agencies, re-*
9 *gional organizations, and commercial partners and*
10 *academic institutions involved in wildfire manage-*
11 *ment; and*

12 (2) *shall, to the maximum extent practicable,*
13 *consult with the heads of other Federal departments*
14 *and agencies to avoid duplication of activities.*

15 (d) *PROHIBITION.—*

16 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this*
17 *subsection, the Administrator may not procure an un-*
18 *manned aircraft system to conduct activities described*
19 *in this section if such unmanned aircraft system is*
20 *manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign enti-*
21 *ty.*

22 (2) *EXEMPTION.—The Administrator may waive*
23 *the prohibition under paragraph (1) on a case-by-case*
24 *basis if the Administrator—*

1 (A) determines that the procurement of an
2 unmanned aircraft system is—

3 (i) in the national interest of the
4 United States; and

5 (ii) necessary for the sole purpose of
6 improving aerial responses to wildfires; and

7 (B) notifies the Committee on Science,
8 Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,
10 Science, and Transportation of the Senate not
11 later than 30 days after a determination in the
12 affirmative under subparagraph (A).

13 (e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter
15 until December 31, 2030, the Administrator shall submit
16 to the Committee on Science, Space and Technology of the
17 House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
18 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describ-
19 ing the activities, including results, carried out pursuant
20 to this section. Each such report, at minimum, shall con-
21 tain the following:

22 (1) A description of any research and develop-
23 ment activities.

24 (2) A description of the Administrator’s activi-
25 ties pursuant to subsection (c).

1 (3) *An identification of any topics related to im-*
2 *provement of aerial responses to wildfires that could*
3 *benefit from further research.*

4 (4) *A description of any continuing efforts under*
5 *this section.*

6 (5) *Any other information determined appro-*
7 *priate by the Administrator.*

8 (f) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

9 (1) *ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-*
10 *trator” means the Administrator of the National Aer-*
11 *onautics and Space Administration.*

12 (2) *COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—The term “cov-*
13 *ered foreign entity” has the meaning given such term*
14 *in section 1822 of the National Defense Authorization*
15 *Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31).*

16 (3) *NASA.—The term “NASA” means the Na-*
17 *tional Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

18 (4) *UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term*
19 *“unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given*
20 *such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States*
21 *Code.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to utilize the Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response to Operations project of NASA to improve aerial responses to wildfires, and for other purposes.”.

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