

astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not potentially associated with human space flight;

(2) provide for treatment of a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not associated with human space flight; or

(3) require a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist to participate in the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment authorized under subsection (a).

(d) **PRIVACY.**—Consistent with applicable provisions of Federal law relating to privacy, the Administrator shall protect the privacy of all medical records generated under subsection (a) and accessible to the Administration.

(e) **REGULATIONS.**—The Administrator shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

(f) **DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.**—In this section, the term “United States government astronaut” has the meaning given the term “government astronaut” in section 50902, except it does not include an individual who is an international partner astronaut.

(g) **DATA USE AND DISCLOSURE.**—The Administrator may use or disclose data acquired in the course of medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist under subsection (a), in accordance with subsection (d). Former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist participation in medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) shall constitute consent for the Administrator to use or disclose such data.

(Added Pub. L. 115–10, title IV, §443(a), Mar. 21, 2017, 131 Stat. 45.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

ANNUAL REPORTS

Pub. L. 115–10, title IV, §443(c), Mar. 21, 2017, 131 Stat. 47, provided that:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each fiscal year, not later than the date of submission of the President’s annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator [of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration] shall publish a report, in accordance with applicable Federal privacy laws, on the activities of the Administration [National Aeronautics and Space Administration] under section 20149 of title 51, United States Code.

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed cost accounting of the Administration’s activities under section 20149 of title 51, United States Code, and a 5-year budget estimate.

“(3) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress [Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate] each report under paragraph (1) not later than the date of submission of the President’s annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.”

INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT

Pub. L. 115–10, title IV, §443(f), Mar. 21, 2017, 131 Stat. 47, provided that: “The Inspector General of NASA [Na-

tional Aeronautics and Space Administration] shall periodically audit or review, as the Inspector General considers necessary to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, the activities of the Administration [National Aeronautics and Space Administration] under section 20149 of title 51, United States Code.”

SUBCHAPTER IV—UPPER ATMOSPHERE RESEARCH

§ 20161. Congressional declaration of purpose and policy

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this subchapter is to authorize and direct the Administration to develop and carry out a comprehensive program of research, technology, and monitoring of the phenomena of the upper atmosphere so as to provide for an understanding of and to maintain the chemical and physical integrity of the Earth’s upper atmosphere.

(b) **POLICY.**—Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States to undertake an immediate and appropriate research, technology, and monitoring program that will provide for understanding the physics and chemistry of the Earth’s upper atmosphere.

(Pub. L. 111–314, §3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3354.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 20161 | 42 U.S.C. 2481. | Pub. L. 85–568, title IV, §401, as added Pub. L. 94–39, §8, June 19, 1975, 89 Stat. 222. |

§ 20162. Definition of upper atmosphere

In this subchapter, the term “upper atmosphere” means that portion of the Earth’s sensible atmosphere above the troposphere.

(Pub. L. 111–314, §3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3354.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 20162 | 42 U.S.C. 2482. | Pub. L. 85–568, title IV, §402, as added Pub. L. 94–39, §8, June 19, 1975, 89 Stat. 222. |

§ 20163. Program authorized

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to carry out the purposes of this subchapter, the Administration, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, shall initiate and carry out a program of research, technology, monitoring, and other appropriate activities directed to understand the physics and chemistry of the upper atmosphere.

(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out the provisions of this subchapter, the Administration shall—

(1) arrange for participation by the scientific and engineering community, of both the Nation’s industrial organizations and institutions of higher education, in planning and carrying out appropriate research, in developing necessary technology, and in making necessary observations and measurements;

(2) provide, by way of grant, contract, scholarships, or other arrangements, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with other laws, for the widest practicable and appropriate participation of the scientific and

engineering community in the program authorized by this subchapter; and

(3) make all results of the program authorized by this subchapter available to the appropriate regulatory agencies and provide for the widest practicable dissemination of such results.

(Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3354.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 20163 | 42 U.S.C. 2483. | Pub. L. 85-568, title IV, § 403, as added Pub. L. 94-39, § 8, June 19, 1975, 89 Stat. 222. |

§ 20164. International cooperation

In carrying out the provisions of this subchapter, the Administration, subject to the direction of the President and after consultation with the Secretary of State, shall make every effort to enlist the support and cooperation of appropriate scientists and engineers of other countries and international organizations.

(Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3355.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 20164 | 42 U.S.C. 2484. | Pub. L. 85-568, title IV, § 404, as added Pub. L. 94-39, § 8, June 19, 1975, 89 Stat. 223. |

CHAPTER 203—RESPONSIBILITIES AND VISION

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Sec. | |
| 20301. | General responsibilities. |
| 20302. | Vision for space exploration. |
| 20303. | Contribution to innovation. |
| 20304. | Basic research enhancement. |
| 20305. | National Academies decadal surveys. |

§ 20301. General responsibilities

(a) PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall ensure that the Administration carries out a balanced set of programs that shall include, at a minimum, programs in—

(1) human space flight, in accordance with section 20302 of this title;

(2) aeronautics research and development; and

(3) scientific research, which shall include, at a minimum—

(A) robotic missions to study the Moon and other planets and their moons, and to deepen understanding of astronomy, astrophysics, and other areas of science that can be productively studied from space;

(B) Earth science research and research on the Sun-Earth connection through the development and operation of research satellites and other means;

(C) support of university research in space science, Earth science, and microgravity science; and

(D) research on microgravity, including research that is not directly related to human exploration.

(b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—In carrying out the programs of the Administration, the Administrator shall—

(1) consult and coordinate to the extent appropriate with other relevant Federal agencies, including through the National Science and Technology Council;

(2) work closely with the private sector, including by—

(A) encouraging the work of entrepreneurs who are seeking to develop new means to launch satellites, crew, or cargo;

(B) contracting with the private sector for crew and cargo services, including to the International Space Station, to the extent practicable;

(C) using commercially available products (including software) and services to the extent practicable to support all Administration activities; and

(D) encouraging commercial use and development of space to the greatest extent practicable; and

(3) involve other nations to the extent appropriate.

(Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3355.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 20301 | 42 U.S.C. 16611(a). | Pub. L. 109-155, title I, § 101(a), Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2897. |

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

IMPROVED PROCESS FOR YIELD DETERMINATION; REPORT; DEFINITIONS

Pub. L. 118-31, div. A, title XVI, § 1601(b)–(d), Dec. 22, 2023, 137 Stat. 583, provided that:

“(b) IMPROVED PROCESS FOR YIELD DETERMINATION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 22, 2023], the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall jointly establish a process through which scientifically-valid yield determinations can be assessed for space launch vehicles while in flight.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the LOX-Methane Assessment working group process, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a description of the effects of the LOX-Methane Assessment on existing and future maximum credible event analyses and any resulting effects on commercial space launch, civil space activities, and national security.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means the following:

“(A) The congressional defense committees [Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives].

“(B) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

“(C) The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

“(D) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

“(2) The term ‘LOX-Methane Assessment working group’ means the ongoing interagency working group studying the explosive characteristics of liquid oxygen and methane and comprised of representatives from the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.