

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 682

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2023

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Launch Communica-
3 tions Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO SPECTRUM FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE**
5 **LAUNCHES AND REENTRIES.**

6 (a) SERVICE RULES; ALLOCATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-
9 sion shall complete any proceeding in effect as of
10 such date of enactment related to the adoption of
11 service rules for access to the frequencies described
12 in subsection (c) for commercial space launches and
13 commercial space reentries, including technical spec-
14 ifications, eligibility requirements, coordination pro-
15 cedures to preserve the Nation’s defense capabilities,
16 and the allocation on a secondary basis of the fre-
17 quencies described in subsection (c).

18 (2) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL TELE-
19 COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRA-
20 TION.—The coordination procedures adopted under
21 paragraph (1) shall include requirements for persons
22 conducting commercial space launches and commer-
23 cial space reentries to coordinate with the Assistant
24 Secretary regarding access to the frequencies de-
25 scribed in subsection (c) for commercial space
26 launches and commercial space reentries.

1 (b) STREAMLINING OF PROCESS FOR GRANTING AU-
2 THORIZATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date
3 of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue
4 new regulations to streamline the process for granting au-
5 thorizations for access to the frequencies described in sub-
6 section (c) for commercial space launches and commercial
7 space reentries so as to provide for—

8 (1) authorizations that include access to such
9 frequencies for multiple commercial space launches
10 from one or more Federal space launch sites and
11 multiple commercial space reentries to one or more
12 Federal space launch sites;

13 (2) authorizations that include access to such
14 frequencies for multiple commercial space launches
15 from one or more private space launch sites and
16 multiple commercial space reentries to one or more
17 private space launch sites;

18 (3) authorizations that include access to mul-
19 tiple uses of such frequencies for commercial space
20 launch or commercial space reentry;

21 (4) automation of the processes of the Commis-
22 sion to review applications for authorizations for ac-
23 cess to such frequencies for commercial space
24 launches and commercial space reentries; and

1 (5) improved coordination by the Commission
2 with the Assistant Secretary (who shall coordinate
3 with the heads of such other Federal agencies as the
4 Assistant Secretary considers appropriate) to in-
5 crease the speed of review of applications for author-
6 izations for access to such frequencies for commer-
7 cial space launches and commercial space reentries.

8 (c) FREQUENCIES DESCRIBED.—The frequencies de-
9 scribed in this subsection are the frequencies between
10 2025 and 2110 megahertz, between 2200 and 2290 mega-
11 hertz, between 2360 and 2395 megahertz, and between
12 5650 and 5925 megahertz.

13 (d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

14 (1) FREQUENCY RANGES.—Each range of fre-
15 quencies described in this section shall be construed
16 to be inclusive of the upper and lower frequencies in
17 the range.

18 (2) SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.—Noth-
19 ing in this section may be construed to authorize or
20 require elimination or limitation of, or any amend-
21 ment to, or otherwise to affect, special temporary
22 authority, as provided for by section 1.931 of title
23 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor
24 regulation).

25 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(3) COMMERCIAL SPACE REENTRY.—The term “commercial space reentry” means a reentry licensed under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code.

(4) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

Passed the House of Representatives July 25, 2023.

Attest:

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.