

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

LAUNCH COMMUNICATIONS ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 682) to facilitate access to electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 682

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Launch Communications Act".

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

(a) SERVICE RULES; ALLOCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall complete any proceeding in effect as of such date of enactment related to the adoption of service rules for access to the frequencies described in subsection (c) for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, including technical specifications, eligibility requirements, coordination procedures to preserve the Nation's defense capabilities, and the allocation on a secondary basis of the frequencies described in subsection (c).

(2) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION.—The coordination procedures adopted under paragraph (1) shall include requirements for persons conducting commercial space launches and commercial space reentries to coordinate with the Assistant Secretary regarding access to the frequencies described in subsection (c) for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

(b) STREAMLINING OF PROCESS FOR GRANTING AUTHORIZATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue new regulations to streamline the process for granting authorizations for access to the frequencies described in subsection (c) for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries so as to provide for—

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

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

(3) authorizations that include access to multiple uses of such frequencies for commercial space launch or commercial space reentry;

(4) automation of the processes of the Commission to review applications for authorizations for access to such frequencies for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries; and

(5) improved coordination by the Commission with the Assistant Secretary (who shall coordinate with the heads of such other Fed-

eral agencies as the Assistant Secretary considers appropriate) to increase the speed of review of applications for authorizations for access to such frequencies for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

(c) FREQUENCIES DESCRIBED.—The frequencies described in this subsection are the frequencies between 2025 and 2110 megahertz, between 2200 and 2290 megahertz, between 2360 and 2395 megahertz, and between 5650 and 5925 megahertz.

(d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) FREQUENCY RANGES.—Each range of frequencies described in this section shall be construed to be inclusive of the upper and lower frequencies in the range.

(2) SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize or require elimination or limitation of, or any amendment to, or otherwise to affect, special temporary authority, as provided for by section 1.931 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 682, the Launch Communications Act led by the gentlemen from Florida's Second and Ninth Districts.

Over the last decade, the American commercial space industry has dramatically reduced the cost to enter space, revolutionizing the industry. Investment has increased, and innovation has flourished. The number of commercial space launches has increased dramatically.

Unfortunately, our Federal processes have not kept pace.

To launch satellites into orbit, launch providers need access to certain radio frequencies, known as spectrum, which requires coordination between several Federal agencies.

H.R. 682 will take important steps to streamline the process for commercial

space launch providers to gain access to the frequencies they need when they need them and ensure that a lack of coordination between Federal agencies does not hamper the thriving commercial space economy.

No space launch should be threatened because approval for their spectrum access is caught up in bureaucratic delay.

This legislation would provide more certainty to commercial satellite operators that when they make the investment in satellite technologies, they will be able to launch them into space.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 682, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 682, the Launch Communications Act.

Over the last decade, we have seen the costs of exploring space drop drastically. As a result, space launches in this country have increased dramatically. In 2013, the FAA authorized eight launches, but by 2022, less than a decade later, the number was 79. The number of space launches from the United States is only expected to increase in the years to come. We must foster and support this growth in order to enhance our national security capabilities and cement our Nation as a global leader in space and other cutting-edge technologies.

Transporting satellites to space cannot happen without launch entities having reliable access to electromagnetic spectrum. Right now the FCC only temporarily allocates spectrum for space launches. Nevertheless, this process is becoming increasingly burdensome given rise in the number of space launches occurring in our country. For the United States to continue its leadership in space, it is imperative that the FCC develop an efficient and effective process to license spectrum for commercial space launches, as well as the space reentries that inevitably must follow.

Now, H.R. 682 addresses these challenges. Specifically, this bill requires the FCC to streamline its process for allocating spectrum usage rights to commercial space launch providers. These efforts will better support these providers as they communicate with their launch vehicles during flight and upon reentry. The bill also directs the FCC to complete a rulemaking proceeding to adopt service rules for the spectrum bands identified in the bill for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representatives SOTO and DUNN for their bipartisan work on this bill. This important bill helps secure America's leadership in the commercial space industry by strengthening our country's position as a prime destination for launching satellites into space.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in a bipartisan

manner, I look forward to its consideration in the Senate, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Second District of Florida (Mr. DUNN), who is the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the United States continues to lead in satellite communications technology and space exploration to ensure our global competitiveness.

In today's world, indispensable spectrum resources know no borders or boundaries, and they must be used to enhance space and satellite operations, provide broadband access to our fellow Americans, and enhance America's security capability.

As our private-sector partners continue to innovate, the Federal Government can play a collaborative role through the modernization of the launch spectrum licensing process.

This is why I joined my esteemed colleague from Florida (Mr. SOTO) in reintroducing the Launch Communications Act. This updates and simplifies an outdated regulatory process so the U.S. can maintain our competitiveness in space exploration.

Currently, commercial missions launching from the United States to space must use government-owned spectrum to communicate with the rockets during launch and reentry.

Additionally, these private companies must apply to the FCC who must then coordinate with the NTIA to receive special temporary authority to use such spectrum each time they launch.

The Launch Communications Act will lift the burden of obtaining many authorizations and enable the private companies to temporarily use certain spectrum bands for satellite launches when needed.

On multiple occasions this legislation requires the FCC to streamline the launch authorization process for commercial launches, eliminating the special temporary authority process, permitting multilaunch authorizations, and automating the frequency review process.

This is consistent with Space Policy Directive-2 issued by President Trump in May of 2018 to refine Federal spectrum regulations and minimize regulatory burdens.

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Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), the Democratic sponsor of this bill and a graduate of Rutgers University.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 682, the Launch Communications Act.

In central Florida, the busiest spaceport in the world is right in our backyard in Cape Canaveral. We had a record year of 57 launches from the cape in 2022, and we are expecting a

total of 87 launches or more this year, so quite often we see 2 or more in a single week.

When we see bad weather, as you can imagine, some of these launches start to stack up, which is why having a lengthy FCC license process for each launch can be cumbersome and costly.

That is why I introduced this bill with my colleague and fellow Floridian, Dr. DUNN, to streamline the process and ensure our spaceports continue to be the most efficient in the world.

The Launch Communications Act allocates certain spectrum for commercial launches and reentries. It streamlines the process for authorization to said spectrum while also keeping it available to other users and ensuring coordination to prevent any interference with government systems.

As we continue to break launch records year after year, we need to streamline these processes to continue to ensure that America remains the world leader in space. This bill does exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Chair LATTA, Chair MCMORRIS RODGERS, Ranking Member PALLONE, Ranking Member MATSUI, and, of course, my fellow Floridian, Dr. DUNN, for passing this bill out of committee unanimously.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Launch Communications Act.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill coming out of the Energy and Commerce Committee. I urge support for this very important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, this legislation would provide more certainty to our commercial satellite operators so that when they make the investment in satellite technologies, they will be able to launch them into space.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 682, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FULCHER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 682, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING THE U.S. ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK ACT

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2544) to improve the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2544

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act".

SEC. 2. ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK.

Section 372 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "The Secretary shall by contract" and inserting "IN GENERAL—The Secretary shall";

(B) by striking "establishment and" and inserting "continued"; and

(C) by striking the second and third sentences and inserting "The Secretary may award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, as the Secretary determines appropriate, for purposes of carrying out this section."; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "(b)(1) The Organ Procurement" and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(b) COMPOSITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network shall—

"(A) be operated through awards to public or private entities made by the Secretary that are distinct from the awards made to support the organization tasked with supporting the board of directors described in subparagraph (B); and"

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Title III of the Public Health Service Act is amended—

(1) in section 371(b)(1)(H)(i)(III) (42 U.S.C. 273(b)(1)(H)(i)(III)), by striking "histocompatibility" and inserting "histocompatibility";

(2) in section 374(c)(2) (42 U.S.C. 274b(c)(2)), by striking "section 371 or 373" each place it appears and inserting "section 371, 372, or 373";

(3) in section 375 (42 U.S.C. 274c)—

(A) by striking the comma at the end of each of paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "transplants, and" and inserting "transplants; and"; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(4) in section 376 (42 U.S.C. 274d)—

(A) by striking "February 10 of 1991 and of each second year thereafter" and inserting "2 years after the date of enactment of the Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act and every second year thereafter"; and

(B) by striking "Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate." and inserting "Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.".

SEC. 4. GAO REVIEW.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) to the extent data are available, conduct a review of the historical financing of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network described in section 372 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274), including the utilization of registration fees among entities that have previously been awarded contracts under such section 372; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the