

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology**

H.R. XXXX, the To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act

Section by Section

Sec. 1. Short Title.

Establishes the short title of the bill as the “TREAT Astronauts Act.”

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Defines the terms Administrator, Crewmember, NASA, Program, and Space Flight-Associated Medical Condition.

Sec. 3. Establishment of Program for the Medical Monitoring Diagnosis and Treatment of Astronauts.

Directs the Administrator to establish a Program, subject to certain requirements, to provide for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of Crewmembers for spaceflight-associated medical conditions.

This section ensures that there will be no cost sharing for all treatment provided by the Program, provides the crewmember with access to local health care provider who enters into an agreement with Administrator, establishes NASA as a secondary payer to existing obligations of the United States or any third party, provides NASA authority to make conditional payments, and directs NASA to provide a cost-estimate and annual accounting of the program.

NASA will have access to and be able to use data derived from Crewmembers participating in the Program, in a manner that protects the confidentiality of individually identifiable health information and which is consistent with applicable Federal law.

Participation in the Program by Crewmembers shall be on a voluntary basis and shall not be a condition for employment or benefits.

Sec. 4. Reports and Cost Estimate.

Directs the Administrator to prepare annual reports on the Program that entail the Program’s activities and detailed cost accounting of each activity. Should the Administrator fail to submit the report, no funds are to be appropriated for the Program for a fiscal year.

No later than 90 days after enactment, NASA must work with an external independent organization to conduct an independent cost estimate of the Program. This estimate must be submitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science and, Transportation of the Senate one year after enactment of this act. The Program is not authorized until 90 days after Congress receives the independent cost estimate.

Sec. 5. Inspector General Audit.

Directs the NASA Inspector General, as appropriate, to conduct periodic audits or reviews of the Program to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

Sec. 6. Funding.

Authorizes the Administrator, subject to appropriations, to fund the Program from appropriated funds under Safety, Security, and Mission Services, Agency Management and Operations Account.

Sec. 7. Sunset.

Sunsetts the program 10 years after the date of its implementation. Crewmembers receiving treatment or diagnosis services prior to the date of termination may continue receiving services until completion.