

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7273**  
**OFFERED BY MRS. MCCLAIN DELANEY OF**  
**MARYLAND**

Add at the end of subtitle C of title III the following:

**1 SEC. 326. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE TRACKING AND**  
**2 DATA RELAY SATELLITE SYSTEM.**

**3 (a) IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 45 days after the  
**4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall**  
**5 seek to enter into an agreement with an external organiza-**  
**6 tion with the appropriate scientific and technical expertise,**  
**7 as determined by the Administrator, to conduct an inde-**  
**8 pendent review of the following:**

**9 (1) The health and operational lifetime of the**  
**10 Tracking and Data Relay Satellite system of NASA**  
**11 (in this section referred to as the “TDRS system”)**  
**12 and any associated ground systems.**

**13 (2) Any communication requirements that cur-**  
**14 rent or planned future missions and assets of NASA**  
**15 rely on or are expected to be relied on for the fol-**  
**16 lowing:**

**17 (A) Maintaining the TDRS system.**

1 (B) Utilizing the TDRS system to deter-  
2 mine baselines.

3 (C) Any communications services offered  
4 by the Near Space Network of NASA.

5 (3) Any plans and actions taken by NASA to  
6 carry out the following:

7 (A) Retire the TDRS system as a Govern-  
8 ment-owned and Government-operated space  
9 communications system.

10 (B) Transition to the TDRS system to a  
11 fully commercial service approach to satisfy  
12 such communication requirements.

13 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In entering into the agreement  
14 with an external organization under subsection (a), the  
15 Administrator shall ensure the independent review de-  
16 scribed in such subsection includes the following:

17 (1) An evaluation of how any missions and as-  
18 sets of NASA rely on the TDRS system to ensure  
19 compatibility between such missions and assets and  
20 commercial providers, including relating to the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 (A) The Hubble Space Telescope.

23 (B) The Chandra X-ray Observatory.

24 (C) The ISS.

1           (2) An assessment of the plans and actions  
2           under paragraph (3) of subsection (a), including the  
3           extent to which the Administrator has considered  
4           the communication requirements—

5                   (A) under paragraph (2) of such sub-  
6                   section; and

7                   (B) of any other relevant Federal depart-  
8                   ments and agencies.

9           (3) An assessment of how the timeline for serv-  
10           ices monitored by the Communications Services  
11           Project of NASA compares to the timeline for the  
12           plans and actions under such paragraph (3).

13           (4) An assessment of any plans and consider-  
14           ations for a partially or fully commercialized service  
15           that is equivalent to the Near Space Network of  
16           NASA that includes the following:

17                   (A) Any plans for commercial ground sta-  
18                   tion network services.

19                   (B) Any considerations for risks and  
20                   vulnerabilities related to the environment, infra-  
21                   structure, or cybersecurity.

22           (5) Any other requirements the Administrator  
23           determines appropriate.

24           (6) Any recommendations related to the re-  
25           quirements under paragraphs (1) through (5) of this

1 subsection, as the Administrator determines appro-  
2 priate.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the external organiza-  
5 tion that enters into an agreement with the Administrator  
6 under subsection (a) shall submit to the appropriate com-  
7 mittees of Congress a report that includes the findings of  
8 the independent review required under such subsection.

