

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 682, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 682

To facilitate access to electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2023

Mr. SOTO (for himself and Mr. DUNN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Launch Communica-
5 tions Act”.

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

8 (a) SERVICE RULES; ALLOCATION.—

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

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

21 (b) STREAMLINING OF PROCESS FOR GRANTING AU-
22 THORIZATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date
23 of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue
24 new regulations to streamline the process for granting au-
25 thorizations for access to the frequencies described in sub-

1 section (c) for commercial space launches and commercial
2 space reentries so as to provide for—

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

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

13 (3) authorizations that include access to mul-
14 tiple uses of such frequencies for commercial space
15 launch or commercial space reentry;

16 (4) automation of the processes of the Commis-
17 sion to review applications for authorizations for ac-
18 cess to such frequencies for commercial space
19 launches and commercial space reentries; and

20 (5) improved coordination by the Commission
21 with the Assistant Secretary (who shall coordinate
22 with the heads of such other Federal agencies as the
23 Assistant Secretary considers appropriate) to in-
24 crease the speed of review of applications for author-

1 izations for access to such frequencies for commer-
2 cial space launches and commercial space reentries.

3 (c) FREQUENCIES DESCRIBED.—The frequencies de-
4 scribed in this subsection are the frequencies between
5 2025 and 2110 megahertz, between 2200 and 2290 mega-
6 hertz, between 2360 and 2395 megahertz, and between
7 5650 and 5925 megahertz.

8 (d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

9 (1) FREQUENCY RANGES.—Each range of fre-
10 quencies described in this section shall be construed
11 to be inclusive of the upper and lower frequencies in
12 the range.

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

20 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
22 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
23 Commerce for Communications and Information.

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

4 (3) COMMERCIAL SPACE REENTRY.—The term
5 “commercial space reentry” means a reentry li-
6 censed under chapter 509 of title 51, United States
7 Code.

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