

[Committee Print]

[SHOWING THE TEXT OF H.R. 682, AS FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ON MARCH 8, 2023]

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—

4 (A) complete any proceeding in effect as of
5 such date of enactment related to the adoption
6 of service rules for access to the frequencies de-
7 scribed in subsection (c) for commercial space
8 launches and commercial space reentries, in-
9 cluding technical specifications, eligibility re-
10 quirements, and coordination procedures to pre-
11 serve the Nation’s defense capabilities; and

12 (B) allocate on a secondary basis the fre-
13 quencies described in subsection (c) for com-
14 mercial space launches and commercial space
15 reentries.

16 (2) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL TELE-
17 COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRA-
18 TION.—The coordination procedures adopted under
19 paragraph (1)(A) shall include requirements for per-
20 sons conducting commercial space launches and
21 commercial space reentries to coordinate with the
22 Assistant Secretary regarding access to the fre-
23 quencies described in subsection (c) for commercial
24 space launches and commercial space reentries.

1 (3) LIMITATION.—Access to the frequencies de-
2 scribed in subsection (c) under the service rules
3 adopted under paragraph (1)(A), and the allocation
4 of such frequencies under paragraph (1)(B), shall be
5 limited to the use of such frequencies for commercial
6 space launches and commercial space reentries.

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

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

19 (2) authorizations that include access to such
20 frequencies for multiple commercial space launches
21 from one or more private space launch sites, and
22 multiple commercial space reentries to one or more
23 private space launch sites, upon successful coordina-
24 tion with any Federal space launch site within a
25 range for access to such frequencies for such a com-

1 mercial space launch or commercial space reentry to
2 cause harmful interference to Federal systems;

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

6 (4) automation of the processes of the Commis-
7 sion to review applications for authorizations for ac-
8 cess to such frequencies for commercial space
9 launches and commercial space reentries; and

10 (5) improved coordination by the Commission
11 with the Assistant Secretary (who shall coordinate
12 with the heads of such other Federal agencies as the
13 Assistant Secretary considers appropriate) to in-
14 crease the speed of review of applications for author-
15 izations for access to such frequencies for commer-
16 cial space launches and commercial space reentries.

17 (c) FREQUENCIES DESCRIBED.—The frequencies de-
18 scribed in this subsection are the following:

19 (1) The frequencies between 2025 and 2110
20 megahertz, between 2200 and 2290 megahertz, be-
21 tween 2360 and 2395 megahertz, and between 5650
22 and 5925 megahertz.

23 (2) Any additional frequencies identified by the
24 Commission (in coordination with the Assistant Sec-
25 retary, in the case of potential impact to Federal

1 spectrum use) as necessary to conduct commercial
2 space launches and commercial space reentries.

3 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Each range of fre-
4 quencies described in this section shall be construed to be
5 inclusive of the upper and lower frequencies in the range.

6 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

13 (3) COMMERCIAL SPACE REENTRY.—The term
14 “commercial space reentry” means a reentry li-
15 censed under chapter 509 of title 51, United States
16 Code.

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