

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 such fre-
13 quencies for commercial space launches and
14 commercial space reentries.

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

24 (3) LIMITATION.—Access to the frequencies de-
25 scribed in subsection (c) under the service rules

1 adopted under paragraph (1)(A), and the allocation
2 of such frequencies under paragraph (1)(B), shall be
3 limited to the use of such frequencies for commercial
4 space launches and commercial space reentries.

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

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

17 (2) authorizations that include access to mul-
18 tiple uses of such frequencies for commercial space
19 launch or commercial space reentry;

20 (3) automation of the processes of the Commis-
21 sion to review applications for authorizations for ac-
22 cess to such frequencies for commercial space
23 launches and commercial space reentries; and

24 (4) improved coordination by the Commission
25 with the Assistant Secretary (who shall coordinate

1 with the heads of such other Federal agencies as the
2 Assistant Secretary considers appropriate, which
3 may include the Secretary of Defense) to increase
4 the speed of review of applications for authorizations
5 for access to such frequencies for commercial space
6 launches and commercial space reentries.

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

9 (1) The frequencies between 2025–2110 MHz,
10 2200–2290 MHz, 2360–2395 MHz, and 5650–5925
11 MHz.

12 (2) Any additional frequencies identified by the
13 Commission (in coordination with the Assistant Sec-
14 retary, in the case of potential impact to Federal
15 spectrum use) as necessary to conduct commercial
16 space launches and commercial space reentries.

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

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.

○