

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1648

AN ACT

To facilitate access to the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Launch Communica-
3 tions Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM FOR**
5 **COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCHES AND REEN-**
6 **TRIES.**

7 (a) SERVICE RULES; ALLOCATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-
10 sion shall—

11 (A) complete any proceeding in effect as of
12 such date of enactment related to the adoption
13 of service rules for access to the frequencies de-
14 scribed in subsection (c) for commercial space
15 launches and commercial space reentries, in-
16 cluding technical specifications, eligibility re-
17 quirements, and coordination procedures to pre-
18 serve the defense capabilities of the United
19 States; and

20 (B) allocate on a secondary basis such fre-
21 quencies for commercial space launches and
22 commercial space reentries.

23 (2) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL TELE-
24 COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRA-
25 TION.—The coordination procedures adopted under
26 paragraph (1)(A) shall include requirements for per-

1 sons conducting commercial space launches and
2 commercial space reentries to coordinate with the
3 Assistant Secretary regarding access to the fre-
4 quencies described in subsection (c) for commercial
5 space launches and commercial space reentries.

6 (3) LIMITATION.—Access to the frequencies de-
7 scribed in subsection (c) in accordance with the serv-
8 ice rules adopted under subparagraph (A) of para-
9 graph (1), and the allocation of such frequencies
10 under subparagraph (B) of that paragraph, shall be
11 limited to the use of such frequencies for commercial
12 space launches and commercial space reentries.

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

20 (1) authorizations that include access to such
21 frequencies for multiple commercial space launches
22 from 1 or more Federal space launch sites and mul-
23 tiple commercial space reentries to 1 or more Fed-
24 eral space reentry sites;

1 (2) authorizations that include access to such
2 frequencies for multiple commercial space launches
3 from 1 or more private space launch sites and mul-
4 tiple commercial space reentries to 1 or more private
5 space reentry sites, upon successful coordination
6 with any Federal space launch site within a range
7 for access to such frequencies such that such a com-
8 mercial space launch or commercial space reentry
9 would not cause harmful interference with Federal
10 systems;

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

14 (4) electronic filing and processing of applica-
15 tions for authorizations for access to such fre-
16 quencies for commercial space launches and com-
17 mercial space reentries; and

18 (5) improved coordination by the Commission
19 with the Assistant Secretary (who shall coordinate
20 with the head of any other Federal agency, as the
21 Assistant Secretary considers appropriate) to in-
22 crease the speed of review of applications for author-
23 izations for access to such frequencies for commer-
24 cial space launches and commercial space reentries,
25 including coordination to increase automation simi-

1 lar to the automation described in the service rules
2 established by the Commission and the Assistant
3 Secretary to promote the development and use, by
4 entities other than the Federal Government, of spec-
5 trum in other bands, including bands with the fre-
6 quencies between 71 and 76 gigahertz, between 81
7 and 86 gigahertz, and between 92 and 95 gigahertz.

8 (c) FREQUENCIES DESCRIBED.—The frequencies de-
9 scribed in this subsection are the frequencies between
10 2025 and 2110 megahertz, between 2200 and 2290 mega-
11 hertz, and between 2360 and 2395 megahertz.

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

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

22 (3) COMMERCIAL SPACE REENTRY.—The term
23 “commercial space reentry” means a reentry li-
24 censed under chapter 509 of title 51, United States
25 Code.

1 (4) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
2 means the Federal Communications Commission.

Passed the Senate October 31, 2023.

Attest:

Secretary.

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1648

AN ACT

To facilitate access to the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, and for other purposes.