

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5346

To amend title 51, United States Code, to provide for licenses and experimental permits for space support vehicles, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2018

Mr. POSEY (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To amend title 51, United States Code, to provide for licenses and experimental permits for space support vehicles, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Commercial Space
5 Support Vehicle Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 50902 of title 51, United States Code, is
8 amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (21) through
2 (25) as paragraphs (23) through (27), respectively;
3 and

4 (2) by inserting after paragraph (20) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(21) ‘space support flight’ means a flight
7 in the air that is—

8 “(A) not a launch or reentry; but

9 “(B) related to launch or reentry serv-
10 ices.

11 “(22) ‘space support vehicle’ means a vehi-
12 cle that is—

13 “(A) a launch vehicle;

14 “(B) a reentry vehicle; or

15 “(C) a component of a launch or re-
16 entry vehicle.”.

17 **SEC. 3. LICENSING OF SPACE SUPPORT FLIGHTS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 50904 of title 51, United
19 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(e) SPACE SUPPORT FLIGHTS.—

22 “(1) The Secretary of Transportation may issue
23 or transfer a license for multiple space support
24 flights of a space support vehicle to a citizen of the
25 United States, but only if such citizen holds an oper-

1 ator license issued under this chapter for launch or
2 reentry of such space support vehicle as, or included
3 as a component of, a launch vehicle or reentry vehi-
4 cle.

5 “(2) A licensee may only carry out a space sup-
6 port flight of a space support vehicle under a license
7 for carrying a person or property for compensation
8 or hire if such flight lands at the same site from
9 which the vehicle took flight.”

10 (b) LIMITATION ON WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—
11 Section 50905(b)(3) of title 51, United States Code, is
12 amended by inserting “, or the operation of a space sup-
13 port vehicle,” after “or a reentry vehicle”.

14 **SEC. 4. EXPERIMENTAL PERMITS FOR SPACE SUPPORT**
15 **FLIGHTS.**

16 Section 50906 of title 51, United States Code, is
17 amended—

18 (1) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(d) The Secretary may issue a permit only for—

21 “(1) reusable suborbital rockets or reusable
22 launch vehicles that will be launched into a sub-
23 orbital trajectory or reentered under that permit
24 solely for—

1 “(A) research and development to test de-
2 sign concepts, equipment, or operating tech-
3 niques;

4 “(B) showing compliance with require-
5 ments as part of the process for obtaining a li-
6 cense for launch or reentry under this chapter;
7 or

8 “(C) crew training for a launch or reentry
9 using the design of the rocket or vehicle for
10 which the permit would be issued; or

11 “(2) a space support vehicle, or a vehicle that
12 is in development to become a space support vehicle,
13 operated by a citizen of the United States for space
14 support flights that will be conducted under the per-
15 mit for, or in support of, the purposes described in
16 subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1).”;
17 and

18 (2) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(h) No person may, under a permit, operate a reus-
21 able suborbital rocket, reusable launch vehicle, or space
22 support vehicle for carrying any property or human being
23 for compensation or hire.”.

1 **SEC. 5. COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY.**

2 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
3 Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Sec-
4 retary of Transportation to discuss potential regulatory
5 approaches, potential performance standards, or any other
6 topic related to this Act and the amendments made by
7 this Act with the commercial space industry prior to the
8 issuance of a notice of proposed rulemaking.

9 **SEC. 6. APPLICABILITY.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made by this
11 Act shall take effect on March 1, 2019.

12 (b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Transportation
13 may issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out
14 the amendments made by this Act beginning on the date
15 of enactment of this Act.

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