

Bill Fact Sheet – December 5, 2025 https://legilist.com Bill page: https://legilist.com/bill/109/hr/656

HR 656

To amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety of the commercial human space flight industry.

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Feb 8, 2005

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. (Feb 22, 2005)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/house-bill/656

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Oberstar, James L. [D-MN-8]

Party: Democratic • State: MN • Chamber: House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 22, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Feb 8, 2005)

Amends Federal law concerning commercial space transportation to require the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that each approved license for commercial space launch and reentry activities includes minimum standards to protect the health and safety of crews and space flight participants, taking into account the inherently risky nature of human flight.

Extends the application review periods by the end of which the Secretary must: (1) issue an experimental permit for commercial launch and reentry activities after receiving an application; or (2) inform the applicant of any pending issue and action required to resolve such issue if the Secretary has not made such a decision.

Actions Timeline

- Feb 22, 2005: Referred to the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics.
- Feb 8, 2005: Introduced in House
- Feb 8, 2005: Introduced in House
- Feb 8, 2005: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E181)
- Feb 8, 2005: Referred to the House Committee on Science.