

HR 8288

LAUNCHES Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jul 5, 2022

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. (Jul 5, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8288>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]

Party: Democratic • State: FL • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Dunn, Neal P. [R-FL-2]	R · FL		Jul 5, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 5, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Leveraging American Understanding of Next-generation Challenges Exploring Space Act or the LAUNCHES Act

This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to facilitate access to specified broadband spectrum frequencies for commercial space launches and reentries.

Under current law, commercial missions launching from the United States to space must use government-owned spectrum to communicate with the rockets during launch, and private companies must apply to the FCC to receive special temporary authority to use such spectrum. On June 28, 2021, the FCC issued a final rule adopting a nonfederal secondary allocation of the 2200-2290 megahertz frequencies of the electromagnetic spectrum for use during commercial space launches and reentries.

The bill requires the FCC to adopt service rules for access to additional frequencies for commercial space launches and reentries and complete associated rulemaking activities (e.g., those that set technical specifications and eligibility requirements) to implement the allocation of the frequencies.

The FCC must also streamline the process for access authorizations, providing for (1) authorizations to access specified frequencies for multiple commercial space launches and reentries from one or more launch or reentry sites, (2) authorizations for multiple uses of such frequencies for a commercial space launch or reentry, (3) automation of the FCC's review process for access applications, and (4) increased coordination between the FCC and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to speed the review of such applications.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 5, 2022:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 5, 2022:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.