

S 3658

SAFE Orbit Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 25, 2024

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Dec 24, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3658>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]

Party: Republican • State: TX • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Jan 25, 2024
Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Jan 25, 2024
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Jan 25, 2024
Sen. Schmitt, Eric [R-MO]	R · MO		Jan 25, 2024
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [I-AZ]	I · AZ		Jan 25, 2024
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jan 25, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Dec 21, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 6385	Related bill	Nov 13, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

## **Situational Awareness of Flying Elements in Orbit Act or the SAFE Orbit Act**

This bill provides statutory authority for the Traffic Coordination System for Space, which is being developed by the Office of Space Commerce to provide space situational awareness data and services to space operators. (*Space situational awareness* means an understanding of the space operational environment and the identification, tracking, and prediction of the behavior of space objects and debris.)

As an initial matter, the bill provides for the elevation of the Office of Space Commerce to a standalone bureau within the Department of Commerce. (The office currently sits within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)

The bill authorizes the bureau to acquire location tracking data, positional and orbit determination information, conjunction data messages, and other data, analytics, information, and services deemed necessary to avoid collisions in space. The bureau must disseminate this information at no charge (1) through a public database of space situational awareness information and services, including space traffic coordination; and (2) through the provision of basic situational awareness services to satellite operators. The bill also sets forth certain requirements for the collection and dissemination of such information, including that, to the extent practicable, the provision of service to satellite operators may not compete with private situational awareness products.

Finally, the bill provides immunity for the United States government from any suit for a cause of action arising from the provision or receipt of space situational awareness services or information.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 24, 2024:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 24, 2024:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 23, 2024:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 21, 2024:** Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 21, 2024:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S7314-7315)
- **Dec 21, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 21, 2024:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S7314-7315)
- **Jan 25, 2024:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 25, 2024:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.