

HR 682

Launch Communications Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jan 31, 2023

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transp

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jul 26, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/682>

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		Jan 31, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 26, 2023
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Reported by	Mar 8, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 1648	Related bill	Sep 26, 2024: Became Public Law No: 118-85.

Launch Communications 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 to provide for (1) authorizations to access specified frequencies for multiple commercial space launches and reentries from one or more (federal or private) launch 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) improved coordination between the FCC and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to speed the review of such applications.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 26, 2023:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Jul 25, 2023:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. H. Rept. 118-156.
- **Jul 25, 2023:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 124.
- **Jul 25, 2023:** Mr. Latta moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 25, 2023:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H3928-3929)
- **Jul 25, 2023:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 682.
- **Jul 25, 2023:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H3928)
- **Jul 25, 2023:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H3928)
- **Jul 25, 2023:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 24, 2023:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 24, 2023:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 46 - 0.
- **Mar 23, 2023:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 26 - 0 .
- **Jan 31, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 31, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
- **Jan 31, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.