

HR 8958

NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jul 9, 2024

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

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Sep 24, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/8958>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lucas, Frank D. [R-OK-3]

Party: Republican • **State:** OK • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|
| Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36] | R · TX | | Jul 9, 2024 |
| Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18] | D · CA | | Jul 9, 2024 |
| Rep. Sorenson, Eric [D-IL-17] | D · IL | | Jul 9, 2024 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee | Senate | Referred To | Sep 24, 2024 |
| Science, Space, and Technology Committee | House | Reported By | Sep 23, 2024 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| 118 HR 7687 | Related bill | Dec 19, 2024: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 770. |
| 118 HR 6219 | Related bill | Sep 24, 2024: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. |
| 118 HR 4152 | Related bill | Jul 23, 2024: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 503. |
| 118 HR 8837 | Related bill | Jun 26, 2024: Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. |
| 118 S 4221 | Related bill | May 1, 2024: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. |
| 118 HR 8118 | Related bill | Apr 23, 2024: Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. |
| 118 HR 6771 | Related bill | Dec 13, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. |
| 118 S 3488 | Related bill | Dec 13, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. |
| 118 S 2634 | Related bill | Jul 27, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. |

Summary (as of Sep 23, 2024)

NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024

This bill reauthorizes through FY2025 the programs and activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It also establishes and revises various NASA programs relating to space exploration, research, and technology.

For example, the bill directs NASA to continue its efforts to support crewed lunar landings and Mars explorations, including through partnerships with the private sector (i.e., the Moon to Mars and Artemis programs). NASA must report on certain details of these partnerships, including the respective amounts of government and private sector contributions.

The bill also provides for private sector involvement with the International Space Station (ISS), including authorizing private sector missions to the ISS to advance commercial spaceflight and requiring NASA to partner with the private sector to support the eventual deorbiting of the ISS.

In addition, NASA must continue to support improvements to space technology, including lunar communications. NASA must also evaluate and conduct research programs relating to experimental aircrafts, hypersonic research, and unmanned aircraft systems (i.e., drones).

The bill also establishes certain requirements relating to earth science and monitoring, including requiring NASA to evaluate greenhouse gas detection capabilities and to distribute relevant earth science data to the agricultural industry. It also provides statutory authority for the Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Program, which supports NASA's earth science research.

Finally, the bill requires several reports and evaluations of NASA programs and policies, including an external review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program and a report on NASA's early cost estimates for missions.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 24, 2024:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Sep 23, 2024:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H. Rept. 118-701.
- **Sep 23, 2024:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 595.
- **Sep 23, 2024:** Mr. Lucas moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 23, 2024:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5606-5623)
- **Sep 23, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 8958.
- **Sep 23, 2024:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Sep 23, 2024:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5627-5628)
- **Sep 23, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 366 - 21, 1 Present (Roll no. 441). (text: CR H5606-5621)
- **Sep 23, 2024:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 366 - 21, 1 Present (Roll no. 441). (text: CR H5606-5621)
- **Sep 23, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 10, 2024:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held
- **Jul 10, 2024:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 38 - 0.
- **Jul 9, 2024:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 9, 2024:** Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.