

S 1437

ASCEND Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Apr 10, 2025

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Dec 10, 2025)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/1437

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]

Party: Democratic • State: CO • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Apr 10, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 29, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 2600	Related bill	Apr 29, 2025: Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.

Accessing Satellite Capabilities to Enable New Discoveries Act or the ASCEND Act

This bill provides statutory authority for the Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition (CSDA) program run by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Through the CSDA program, NASA acquires remote sensing data and imagery from commercial satellites to support its Earth science research. (*Remote sensing* generally refers to the collection of data by instruments in Earth's orbit, such as satellites, that can be processed into imagery of Earth's surface.)

Under the bill, NASA may establish or modify end-use agreements to allow for broad use of data and imagery acquired under the program, including by individuals outside of NASA (e.g., other federal agencies). The terms of any data or imagery acquisition may not prevent the publication of such data or imagery for scientific purposes or the publication of information derived from it. To the extent practicable, NASA must acquire such data and imagery from U.S. vendors.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 10, 2025:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 10, 2025:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 10, 2025:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 9, 2025:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 9, 2025:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S8581; text: CR S8581)
- **Sep 29, 2025:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Cruz with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 119-68.
- **Sep 29, 2025:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 173.
- **Apr 30, 2025:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Apr 10, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 10, 2025:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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