

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 390

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To utilize the Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response
to Operations project of NASA to improve aerial re-
sponses to wildfires, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Advanced Capabilities
3 for Emergency Response Operations Act” or the “ACERO
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED CAPABILITIES FOR EMERGENCY RE-**
6 **SPONSE OPERATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall leverage
8 NASA-developed tools and technologies to conduct re-
9 search and development activities under the Advanced Ca-
10 pabilities for Emergency Response Operations (ACERO)
11 project, or appropriate successor project or projects, to im-
12 prove aerial responses to wildfires.

13 (b) GOALS.—The research and development activities
14 conducted under subsection (a) may include the following:

15 (1) Advanced aircraft technologies and airspace
16 management efforts to assist in the management,
17 deconfliction, and coordination of aerial assets dur-
18 ing wildfire response efforts.

19 (2) Information sharing and real-time data ex-
20 change for wildfire response teams.

21 (3) Development of an interoperable platform to
22 provide situational awareness of aerial assets during
23 wildfire response.

24 (4) Establishment of a multi-agency concept of
25 operations, which may involve Federal, State, and

1 local government agencies, to enable coordination of
2 aerial activities for wildfire response.

3 (c) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out this section,
4 the Administrator—

5 (1) may coordinate and collaborate with other
6 Federal, State, and local government agencies, re-
7 gional organizations, and commercial partners and
8 academic institutions involved in wildfire manage-
9 ment; and

10 (2) shall, to the maximum extent practicable,
11 consult with the heads of other Federal departments
12 and agencies to avoid duplication of activities.

13 (d) PROHIBITION.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this
15 subsection, the Administrator may not procure an
16 unmanned aircraft system to conduct activities de-
17 scribed in this section if such unmanned aircraft sys-
18 tem is manufactured or assembled by a covered for-
19 eign entity.

20 (2) EXEMPTION.—The Administrator may
21 waive the prohibition under paragraph (1) on a case-
22 by-case basis if the Administrator—

23 (A) determines that the procurement of an
24 unmanned aircraft system is—

1 (i) in the national interest of the
2 United States; and

3 (ii) necessary for the sole purpose of
4 improving aerial responses to wildfires; and

5 (B) notifies the Committee on Science,
6 Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,
8 Science, and Transportation of the Senate not
9 later than 30 days after a determination in the
10 affirmative under subparagraph (A).

11 (e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually
13 thereafter until December 31, 2030, the Administrator
14 shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space and
15 Technology of the House of Representatives and the Com-
16 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
17 Senate a report describing the activities, including results,
18 carried out pursuant to this section. Each such report, at
19 minimum, shall contain the following:

20 (1) A description of any research and develop-
21 ment activities.

22 (2) A description of the Administrator's activi-
23 ties pursuant to subsection (c).

1 (3) An identification of any topics related to
2 improvement of aerial responses to wildfires that
3 could benefit from further research.

4 (4) A description of any continuing efforts
5 under this section.

6 (5) Any other information determined appro-
7 priate by the Administrator.

8 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
10 trator” means the Administrator of the National
11 Aeronautics and Space Administration.

12 (2) COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—The term
13 “covered foreign entity” has the meaning given such
14 term in section 1822 of the National Defense Au-
15 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law
16 118–31).

17 (3) NASA.—The term “NASA” means the Na-
18 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration.

19 (4) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term
20 “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given

1 such term in section 44801 of title 49, United
2 States Code.

Passed the House of Representatives February 23,
2026.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.