

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2351

To supplement existing lease authorities available to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to support research, education, and training, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2025

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To supplement existing lease authorities available to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to support research, education, and training, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Space Exploration Re-
5 search Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRA-** 7 **TION SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE AUTHORITY.**

8 (a) SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE AUTHORITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
2 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (re-
3 ferred to in this Act as the “Administrator”) may,
4 using existing lease authorities available to the Ad-
5 ministrator and on such terms as the Administrator
6 considers appropriate, lease, for a term not to exceed
7 99 years, real property under the jurisdiction of the
8 Administrator to 1 or more entities described in sub-
9 section (c) for the purpose of the construction and
10 operation on such real property of 1 or more facili-
11 ties the purposes of which shall be—

12 (A) to conduct aeronautical and space re-
13 search;

14 (B) to educate and train individuals for ca-
15 reers in the space industry;

16 (C) to carry out the transfer of aero-
17 nautical and space technology between the
18 United States public and domestic private sec-
19 tors;

20 (D) to conduct scientific, engineering, med-
21 ical, or academic activities; and

22 (E) to conduct any other space-related ac-
23 tivity.

1 (2) RENEWAL.—The Administrator may renew
2 a lease under this subsection for 1 or more addi-
3 tional periods.

4 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE, MAINTENANCE, AND INSTRU-
5 TIONAL SUPPORT.—Subject to the availability of appro-
6 priations, the Administrator may—

7 (1) enter into 1 or more agreements, on such
8 terms as the Administrator considers appropriate,
9 with 1 or more entities described in subsection (c)
10 to lease back real property described in subsection
11 (a), including such real property that has been—

12 (A) leased to a private entity under other
13 lease authority available to the Administrator;
14 and

15 (B) subleased to an entity described in
16 subsection (c);

17 (2) enter into 1 or more contracts, grant agree-
18 ments, cooperative agreements, or other authorized
19 transactions with an entity described in subsection
20 (c) with respect to such property; and

21 (3) provide administrative, maintenance, in-
22 structional, and other appropriate support, with or
23 without reimbursement, to the 1 or more facilities
24 described in subsection (a).

1 (c) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity described in
2 this subsection is—

3 (1) the State in which the real property de-
4 scribed in subsection (a) is located;

5 (2) a subdivision, agent, or agency of such a
6 State;

7 (3) a corporation or foundation organized exclu-
8 sively for education or scientific purposes that is ex-
9 empt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the
10 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.
11 501(c)(3)); and

12 (4) an institution of higher education (as de-
13 fined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of
14 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

15 (d) DELEGATION.—The Administrator may delegate
16 the authorities under subsections (a) and (b) to subordi-
17 nate officers and employees of the National Aeronautics
18 and Space Administration, as the Administrator considers
19 appropriate.

20 (e) EFFECT OF OTHER LAW.—The authority pro-
21 vided by this section shall apply—

22 (1) regardless of the existing authority used by
23 the Administrator to lease the real property de-
24 scribed in subsection (a); and

25 (2) notwithstanding any provision of—

1 (A) section 1302 of title 40, United States
2 Code;

3 (B) section 20145 of title 51, United
4 States Code; or

5 (C) section 306121 of title 54, United
6 States Code.

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