

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2888

To amend chapter 511 of title 51, United States Code, to modify the authority for space transportation infrastructure modernization grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 16), 2025

Mr. HICKENLOOPER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend chapter 511 of title 51, United States Code, to modify the authority for space transportation infrastructure modernization grants, 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 “Spaceport Project Op-
5 portunities for Resilient Transportation Act” or the
6 “SPACEPORT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPACE LAUNCH INFRASTRUCTURE.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (5) of section 51101
3 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 “(5) ‘public agency’ means a State or an agen-
6 cy of a State, a political subdivision of a State, an
7 airport authority, or a tax-supported organization.”.

8 (b) MODIFICATION OF GRANT AUTHORITY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section
10 51102 of title 51, United States Code, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a
14 project grant under this chapter only if the grant
15 will not be for more than 90 percent of the total cost
16 of the project.

17 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the
18 application of paragraph (1) if the Secretary deter-
19 mines that such a waiver is in the national inter-
20 est.”.

21 (c) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—Section 51103(b) of
22 title 51, United States Code, is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the
25 United States Government’s space transpor-
26 tation needs” and inserting “the civil, national

1 security, and commercial space transportation
2 needs of the United States”;

3 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking “con-
4 tributions” and inserting “support”; and

5 (C) by amending subparagraph (F) to read
6 as follows:

7 “(F) the impact of the project on launch
8 and re-entry operations and other activities at
9 Government launch ranges, as needed.”;

10 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(2) The Secretary of Transportation shall develop
13 specific criteria for evaluating and selecting proposed
14 projects based on the considerations under paragraph
15 (1).”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(3) The Secretary of Transportation shall consult
18 with the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the
19 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Sec-
20 retary of Commerce, and the heads of other appropriate
21 agencies of the Government with respect to subparagraphs
22 (A) and (F) of paragraph (1), as appropriate.”.

23 (d) REPORT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary
2 of Defense, the Administrator of the National Aero-
3 nautics and Space Administration, the Secretary of
4 Commerce, and the heads of other appropriate agen-
5 cies of the Government, shall submit to Congress a
6 report that—

7 (A) evaluates the demand for space trans-
8 portation services, including the civil, national
9 security, and commercial space transportation
10 needs of the United States and international
11 commercial markets;

12 (B) provides legislative, regulatory, and
13 policy recommendations to ensure robust and
14 resilient space transportation capabilities in
15 support of the national space policy;

16 (C) examines a range of long-term funding
17 options and related considerations for space
18 transportation infrastructure projects; and

19 (D) provides an assessment of inter-
20 national space transportation capabilities and
21 investments, including recommendations for
22 maintaining United States competitiveness and
23 developing an international space transportation
24 network.

1 (2) UPDATES.—Not later than 6 years after the
 2 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 4 years
 3 thereafter, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

4 (A) update the report submitted under
 5 paragraph (1); and

6 (B) submit such updated report to Con-
 7 gress.

8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
 9 51105 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by
 10 striking “Not more than” and all that follows through the
 11 period at the end and inserting “There is authorized to
 12 be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation for
 13 each fiscal year not more than \$10,000,000 to make
 14 grants under this chapter.”.

15 (f) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) CHAPTER HEADING.—The heading of chap-
 17 ter 511 of title 51, United States Code, is amended
 18 to read as follows:

19 **“CHAPTER 511—SPACE TRANSPORTATION**
 20 **INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION**
 21 **GRANTS”.**

22 (2) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The table of chap-
 23 ters at the beginning of title 51, United States Code,
 24 is amended by striking the item relating to chapter
 25 511 and inserting the following:

**“511. Space Transportation Infrastructure Moderniza-
tion Grants51101”.**

