



**THE REPUBLICAN
STUDY COMMITTEE**

LIBERTY. OPPORTUNITY. SECURITY.
MARK WALKER, CHAIRMAN

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S. 447 — Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act of 2017 (Sen. Baldwin, D-WI)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on April 24, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 447](#) would require a report to Congress that assesses and describes the nature and extent of national laws and enforceable policies of specified countries regarding the identification and the return of or restitution for wrongfully seized or transferred Holocaust era assets.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the reporting requirement under S. 447 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2022 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting S. 447 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: While the intent of the reporting requirement is justifiable and in the interest of survivors of the Holocaust, some may be concerned that the reporting requirement included heirless recipients from certain countries which could allow such countries to avoid providing the full restitution to families of Holocaust victims. In certain [cases](#), countries have delayed payment to heirless family members of Holocaust survivors to circumvent their obligations to provide restitution.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

S. 447 would require the Department of State to submit a report to Congress that assesses and describes the nature and extent of national laws and enforceable policies of specified covered countries regarding the identification and the return of or restitution for wrongfully seized or transferred Holocaust era assets. The report would include: the return to the rightful owner of any property, including religious or communal property, that was wrongfully seized or transferred; if return of any property is no longer possible, the provision of comparable substitute property or the payment of equitable compensation to the rightful owner in accordance with principles of justice and through an expeditious claims-driven administrative process that is just, transparent, and fair; in the case of heirless property, the provision of property or compensation to assist needy Holocaust survivors, to support Holocaust education, and for other purposes; the extent to which such laws and policies are implemented and enforced in practice, including through any applicable administrative or judicial processes; and to the extent practicable, the mechanism for and an overview of progress toward the resolution of claims for United States citizen Holocaust survivors and United States citizen family members of Holocaust victims.

The bill would express a sense of Congress that after the submission of the report, the Secretary of State should continue to report to Congress on Holocaust era assets and related issues in a manner that is consistent with the manner in which the Department of State reported on such matters before the bill's enactment.

The bill defines the term "covered countries" to mean participants in the 2009 Holocaust Era Assets Conference that are determined by the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee, in consultation with expert nongovernmental organizations, to be countries of particular concern relative. These would include Germany, Austria, or other European nations.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 447 was introduced on February 27, 2017, and was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On December 12, 2017, the bill passed the Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Statements of constitutional authority are not required for Senate bills.

H.R. 4744 — Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act, as amended (Rep. McCaul, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on April 24, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4744](#) would impose further sanctions on Iran related to human rights abuses and political oppression.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that administering the specified sanctions and implementing the reporting requirements would cost less than \$500,000 each year and would total \$1 million over the 2018-2023 period. That spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4744 would not significantly increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4744 would express a sense of Congress that the United States should deny the government of Iran the ability to continue to oppress the Iranian people and to use violence and executions to silence pro-democracy protestors; work with international partners to investigate human rights violations by senior Iranian officials, regardless of where or when such violations took place; support efforts made by the people of Iran to promote the establishment of basic freedoms that build the foundation for the emergence of a freely elected, open, non-corrupt and democratic political system; condemn Iranian human rights abuses against dissidents, including the massacre in 1988 and the suppression of political demonstrations in 1999, 2009, and 2017, and pressure the Government of Iran to provide family members detailed information that they were denied about the final resting places of any missing victims of such abuses; and help the people of Iran produce, access, and share information freely and safely via the internet and other media.

The bill would issue a statement of policy to stand with the people of Iran who seek the opportunity to freely elect a government of their choosing, and increase the utilization of all available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals responsible for serious human rights abuses.

H.R. 4744 would require the President to submit a report to Congress containing a determination of whether any senior officials of the Government of Iran or other Iranian persons meet the criteria described in [subsection \(b\) of section 105D of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010](#) related to certain persons responsible for or complicit in human rights abuses committed against citizens of Iran or their family members after the June 12, 2009, elections in Iran; and [paragraph \(3\) or \(4\) of section 1263\(a\) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 \(Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656\)](#), related to certain persons responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights committed against individuals in any foreign country. The required report required would contain a review of any activities of cooperative foundations or bonyads in Iran with a capitalization that exceeds \$200,000,000 and that meet the criteria in [paragraph \(3\) or \(4\) of section 1263\(a\) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 \(Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note\)](#) for purposes of corruption.

The bill would further express a sense of Congress that the Administration should fully utilize all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent the Iranian regime from engaging in hostage-taking or the prolonged arbitrary detention of United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens; and the United States should encourage its allies and other affected countries to pursue the criminal prosecution and extradition of state and non-state actors in Iran that assist in or benefit from such hostage-taking to prevent such state and non-state actors from engaging in this practice in the future.

H.R. 4744 would issue a statement of policy that it is the policy of the United States Government not to pay ransom for the purpose of securing the release of United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens taken hostage abroad.

The bill would require the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress that contains a strategy to prevent elements of the Iranian regime from engaging in hostage-taking or the prolonged arbitrary detention of United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens.

The bill would additionally express a sense of Congress that the United States should coordinate with United States allies and other allies and partners whose citizens may be subject to politically-motivated detention or trial in Iran, to apply sanctions against Iranian persons that are responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, such detention or trial.

H.R. 4744 would amend [the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010](#) by authorizing the President to impose sanctions Iranian persons that the President determines, are knowingly responsible for the politically-motivated harassment, abuse, extortion, or extended detention or trial of citizens of the United States or United States legal permanent resident aliens, regardless of whether the actions occurred in Iran; or responsible for the politically-motivated harassment, abuse, extortion, or extended detention or trial of Iranians. The President would be required to submit a list of such persons or family members to Congress and would be authorized to revoke or deny visas to such persons.

The House report (H. Rept. 115-642) accompanying H.R. 4744 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4744 was introduced on January 9, 2018, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee. On [April 18, 2018](#), the bill was reported (amended) by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8." No enumerating clause was listed.

H.R. 4681 — No Assistance for Assad Act, as amended (Rep. Engel, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on April 24, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4681](#) would limit or prohibit U.S. assistance funding to parts of Syria controlled by the government of Syria or associated forces.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2023 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 4681 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4681 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4681 would issue a statement of policy that the United States that United States foreign assistance made available for early recovery, reconstruction, or stabilization in Syria should be used only in a democratic Syria or in areas of Syria not controlled by a government led by Bashar al-Assad or associated forces.

H.R. 4681 would prohibit amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for stabilization or reconstruction assistance for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023 from being provided directly or indirectly, for any area of Syria controlled by the government of Syria or associated forces, as determined by the Secretary of State. The bill would allow the Secretary of State to provide assistance to the Syrian government controlled territory if the Secretary provides a certification to Congress that the government of Syria has ceased attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and the indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment; is taking verifiable steps to release all political prisoners and is providing full access to Syrian prisons for investigations by appropriate international human rights organizations; is taking steps to verifiably fulfill its commitments under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction; is demonstrating respect for and compliance with internationally recognized human rights and basic freedoms as specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; as well as other conditions.

The bill would express a sense of Congress that the United States should not fund projects with respect to which the government of Syria, or any official or family member of its government, have a financial or material interest or are affiliated with the implementing partner of the project.

H.R. 4681 would require the Secretary of State and the Administrator of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to report to Congress on the delivery of United States humanitarian assistance to Syria.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4681 was introduced on December 19, 2017, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution."

H. Con. Res. 111 — Recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States, as amended (Rep. LaHood, R-IL)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on April 24, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Con. Res. 111](#) would recognize and support the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H. Con. Res. 111 would express that the Congress recognizes and supports the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States; encourages the President of the United States and appropriate Federal agencies to support the United Bid Committee in its efforts to meet all requirements for the United States to jointly host with Canada and Mexico the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition; and stands prepared to give full consideration to legislative proposals or other requests by the President to provide support related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition, if Canada, Mexico, and the United States are selected to host this event.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Con. Res. 111 was introduced on March 5, 2018, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No constitutional authority statement is available.

H.R. 5086 – Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act of 2018 (Rep. Lipinski, D-IL)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on April 24, 2018 under a suspension of the rules which requires 2/3 majority for final passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 5086](#) would expand eligibility for the National Science Foundation's [Innovation Corps \(I-Corps\)](#), so that private funding, Small Business Innovation Research grants and Small Business Technology Transfer grants could be used for I-Corps training expenses.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) "that implementing H.R. 5086 would cost \$5 million over the 2018-2022 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts."

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that this legislation would expand allowable uses for multiple research grants.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes - this legislation would expand allowable uses for multiple research grants.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 5086 would expand eligibility for the National Science Foundation's Innovation Corps (I-Corps), so that private funding, Small Business Innovation Research grants and Small Business Technology Transfer grants could be used for I-Corps training expenses.

This legislation would also create a new I-Corps course on company organization, attracting investors, building a brand, and hiring for commercialization-ready research ventures.

This legislation would also require the Comptroller General to submit a report to Congress within two years evaluating the I-Corps program. This legislation would be funded by \$5 million dollars otherwise already allotted to the National Science Foundation for FY19 and FY20.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 5086 was introduced on February 26, 2018 and was referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and was ordered reported by [voice vote](#) on March 22, 2018

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact H.R. 5086 pursuant to: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

H.R. 2809 – American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act (Rep. Smith, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Jennifer Weinhart](#), 202-226-0706

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on April 24, 2018 under a suspension of the rules which requires 2/3 majority for final passage

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2809](#) would address oversight over commercial space activities and would overhaul and streamline existing processes regarding private space exploration in order to improve U.S. competitiveness.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) “that implementing H.R. 2809 would cost \$5 million over the 2018-2019 period. In fiscal year 2017, the CRSRA and the OSC each received an appropriation of about \$1 million. Under current law, no specific sums are authorized to be appropriated to the CRSRA after 2017.”

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that this legislation would authorize the creation of multiple new advisory committees and would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for the Office of Space Commerce to undertake its new duties without a corresponding reduction in authorizations.

Some conservatives may be pleased that this legislation provides for greater ease of operation for private space operation, thereby leading to greater U.S. competitiveness.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** yes. It authorizes the creation of various advisory committees.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2809 would address oversight over commercial space activities and would overhaul and streamline existing processes regarding private space exploration in order to improve U.S. competitiveness.

Section 3 would address the certification process for the operation of space objects for nongovernmental U.S. entities, granting control of the certification process to the Secretary of Commerce within one year following enactment.

This legislation would specify conditions for certification to be addressed through an application process. This legislation enumerates details to be included in a completed application, including attestations that the space object is not a nuclear weapon or a weapon of mass destruction, nor will it carry such a weapon or be used in such a manner. The Secretary would be required to consult with other relevant agency heads when carrying out certifications, including consulting with the Secretary

of Defense prior to issuing a certification or approving changes within an existing certifications involving the exploitation and integration of waveforms. Certifications could not be issued to foreign entities. The Secretary would be required to verify an application within 90 days, and subject to its findings, either approve or deny an application. If the Secretary fails to do so, the application is deemed approved.

In the event an application for operation of a space object indicates the violation under the Outer Space Treaty, the Secretary may condition use so as to not violate the treaty, or deny an application. The legislation would require conformity with the [Outer Space Treaty](#), and recognizes that obligations under the treaty are under purview of the U.S. government. The Secretary of Commerce in concert with the Office of Space Commerce have sole authority to carry out the certification process under H.R. 2809, and may not delegate this authority.

This legislation would require applications to include plans to mitigate space debris for the proposed space object, taking into account Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and U.S. space debris mitigation guidelines. It would also provide for consultation between entities receiving certification and federal operators to address the possibility of on-orbit collisions.

Certifications would not be required for space objects authorized by another party to the Outer Space Treaty, launch or reentry vehicles authorized by the Department of Transportation, or space stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. Space objects that are certificated by the Department of Commerce would not be subject to Department of Transportation payload review for national security, foreign policy or international obligations. The DoT would retain that authority, however, for public health and safety and safety of property concerns.

This legislation would not affect the ability of the FCC to license telecommunication satellites, and specifically protects those satellites and the authority of the Federal Communications Commission. These operators would not need to register with the Office of Space Commerce.

Certification recipients would be required to notify the Secretary if they terminate operations or have undergone a catastrophic event, or if any material changes or anomalies have occurred which could require an update of certification.

This legislation would require transfer of certification requests to meet certain requirements. The Secretary would be permitted to terminate a certification under certain circumstances. Upon termination, certification holders may be required to carry out their space debris mitigation plan.

Those with existing licenses or those with pending applications for launch or reentry through the Department of Transportation would be grandfathered into the new system. Alternatively, they may apply for certification for the operation of the licensed activities with the DoC and may continue operating until the certification is issued. Pending licenses may be rescinded without prejudice or transferred to the Office of Space Commerce and deemed pending.

This legislation would establish a Private Space Advisory Committee consisting of 15 members to analyze developments of nongovernmental space activities, the effectiveness of the certification process, provide recommendations to the Secretary and Congress on how to foster a robust private sector, and identify any challenges the U.S. private sector may be experiences pertaining to the operation of space objects. The Committee would also review various sets of best practices and

provide advice pertaining to U.S. private sector in space. The committee would be required to submit an annual report to Congress, the President, and the Secretary, and would sunset after 10 years.

This legislation would address harmful interference by requiring the President to protect the interests of U.S. entities in using and exploring space, including commercial activity, protect ownership rights of U.S. entity space objects, and ensure they are given due regard. This legislation gives Federal courts jurisdiction over civil actions resulting from the operation of a certificated space object and allows U.S. entities to seek judicial remedy in the event of interference. FCC authority over interference caused by electromagnetic spectrum usage would remain unchanged.

Section four would reform the space-based remote sensing regulatory system.

This legislation would detail the permitting requirements for space-based remote sensing systems, which have seen a surge in the commercial market. It would require the Secretary to consult with the heads of other relevant agencies as necessary. Permits for space-based remote sensing systems could be obtained through approved, completed applications. The Secretary would issue an approval or denial within 90 days, or the application is automatically deemed approved. The 90-day period may be extended by the President for 60 days to analyze national security implications if the President notifies Congress of the need, with clear and convincing evidence. The President would not be able to delegate this responsibility. Applicants receiving denials would be required to be supplied with reasons for the denial. Notifications of denial must also be submitted to Congress. Denied applicants could follow an appeals process. Applications for systems that could pose a significant threat to national security could be conditioned to address the threat, or denied by the Secretary. The Federal government would be required to first attempt mitigation of the national security risks before conditioning an applicant. Applicants receiving conditioned permits must be provided with written notification within 10 days. Notification must also be submitted to Congress.

The Secretary is prohibited from preventing U.S. entities launching space-based remote sensing systems from using the same or similar capabilities, data, products, or services already commercially available, or will be commercially available in three years on the marketplace, thus allowing entities to use capabilities already available on the market abroad.

The President would be required to maintain and update a database of relevant commercially available capabilities pertaining to space-based remote sensing systems.

Permit recipients would be required to notify the Secretary if they terminate operations or have undergone a catastrophic event, or if any material changes or anomalies have occurred which could require an update to the permit.

This legislation would require transfer of permit requests to meet certain requirements.

The Secretary would be required to submit a report to Congress regarding this legislation's provisions regarding space-based remote sensing systems and permit holders.

This legislation would establish an advisory committee on commercial remote sensing consisting of 15 members to provide information, analyze the implementation of the permitting process, identify challenges, and provide recommendations and advice. The committee would be required to submit

an annual report to Congress, the President, the Secretary, and the Director of the Office of Space Commerce. The committee would sunset in 10 years.

Those with existing licenses or those with pending applications for the operation of space-based remote sensing systems from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would be grandfathered into the new system. Existing licensees may apply for recertification for the operation of the licensed activities with the DoC and may continue operating until the certification is issued. Pending licenses may be rescinded without prejudice or transferred to the Office of Space Commerce and deemed pending.

Section 5 would address administrative provisions pertaining to certification and permitting.

The Secretary would be permitted to seek an injunction or judicial determination to terminate a certification or permit, or their relevant operations, if the certification or permit holder has failed to comply with the terms of this legislation or their permit/certification. This legislation would provide for civil penalties for such a failure of compliance or for operating without the relevant certification or permit. The Secretary would be permitted to modify any civil penalty, and could seize any item, pursuant to a warrant based on probable cause, that is or is likely to be used to violate the requirements or a permit or certification. Permit or certification holders would be permitted to make a timely request for review of an adverse action. Any final action taken on the part of the Secretary would be subject to judicial review.

This legislation would provide for the protection of U.S. assets in space, by requiring the Secretary to review the operations of covered space objects to determine if they present a substantial risk to the physical safety or a government operated space object. If a risk is identified, the certification holder may be required to participate in a consultation in order to mitigate the safety risk. The secretary would be required to provide notification to Congress.

Applicants for permits or certifications who receive denials would be permitted to appeal the denial or the placement of a condition to the secretary, who would be required to dispose of the appeal within 60 days. If the appeal is denied, the applicant would be permitted to seek review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, or the relevant court of appeals pertaining to their residence or principle place of business.

This legislation would restrict further agency involvement outside of the Department of Commerce, regarding the authorization and supervision of certifiable space objects and remote sensing systems to the Department of Transportation, with respect to launch and reentry vehicles, and the FCC with respect to licensed space stations.

This legislation would require the President, to the extent possible, to take steps pertaining to the interpretation of treaties to minimize regulations and limitations on U.S. nongovernmental entities use and exploration of space.

The Secretary would be required to issue any necessary regulations to carry out this legislation, with the understanding that it is in the interest of the United States to have a minimal regulatory burden. It would provide one year to implement the law and carry out necessary regulations.

This legislation encourages the consultation by the Secretary with other relevant agency heads.

This legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Office of Space Commerce for FY18 and FY19.

Section 7 would create an Assistant Secretary of Space Commerce to supervise nongovernmental entities in space. The Office of Space Commerce would be responsible for permitting and certification.

Section 8 would remove the existing Department of Transportation authority for the regulation of space activities of U.S. entities for national security, foreign policy or international obligations. They would retain authority for public health and safety and property protection.

This legislation would require several reports including:

The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Office of Space Commerce and consulting with the Private Space Activity Advisory Committee to submit a report on the implementation of the space object registration obligations of the United States and other countries under the Outer Space Treaty and the Convention on the Registration of Space Objects to Congress.

The Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on removing the Office of Commercial Space Transportation from under the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration and reestablishing the Office under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Transportation to Congress.

The Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence to submit to the Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing a report on space-based radiofrequency mapping.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2809 was introduced on June 7, 2017 and was referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and was ordered reported by [voice vote](#) on June 8, 2017.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact H.R. 2809 pursuant to: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof. Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

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