

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2571

To amend title 51 of the United States Code to improve the safety of commercial space flight operations by authorizing the operation of aircraft with experimental certificates carrying persons or property to support research and training for space flight participants and crew, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2017

Mr. POSEY (for himself and Mr. BRIDENSTINE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To amend title 51 of the United States Code to improve the safety of commercial space flight operations by authorizing the operation of aircraft with experimental certificates carrying persons or property to support research and training for space flight participants and crew, 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 “Spaceflight Training
5 and Astronaut Reform Act” or the “STAR Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPERIMENTAL PERMITS FOR SPACE SUPPORT VE-**
2 **HICLES.**

3 (a) DEFINITION OF SPACE SUPPORT VEHICLE.—Sec-
4 tion 50902 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (21) through
6 (25) as paragraphs (22) through (26), respectively;
7 and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (20) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(21) ‘space support vehicle’ means an aircraft
11 operating at a spaceport licensed by the Federal
12 Aviation Administration that simulates space flight
13 conditions in support of—

14 “(A) training for space flight participants
15 or crew; or

16 “(B) testing of space flight hardware.”.

17 (b) EXPERIMENTAL PERMITS.—Section 50906 of
18 such title is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) by inserting “space support vehicles,”
21 after “reentry vehicles,”; and

22 (B) by inserting “or training” after “re-
23 entry activities”;

24 (2) in subsection (d)—

25 (A) by striking “only for reusable sub-
26 orbital rockets or reusable launch vehicles that

1 will be launched into a suborbital trajectory or
2 reentered” and inserting “for reusable sub-
3 orbital rockets, reusable launch vehicles, or
4 space support vehicles, that will be launched
5 into a suborbital trajectory, reentered, or flown
6 for training or research purposes”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, or
8 simulating launch, reentry, or space flight con-
9 ditions” before the period; and

10 (3) in subsection (e)(1), by inserting “or for a
11 particular space support vehicle,” before “for the
12 uses described in subsection (d)”.

13 (c) LETTER OF DEVIATION REQUIRED FOR EXPERI-
14 MENTAL PERMIT HOLDER.—Section 50906 of such title
15 is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection
17 (j); and

18 (2) by inserting after subsection (h) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(i) A space support vehicle may not operate under
21 an experimental permit under this section unless such ve-
22 hicle has a valid letter of deviation authority in accordance
23 with section 91.319(h) of title 14, Code of Federal Regula-
24 tions or any similar successor regulation. The Secretary
25 shall issue such letter of deviation authority not later than

1 60 days after the provision of an experimental permit
2 under this section, to the extent consistent with maintain-
3 ing the public health and safety and the safety of prop-
4 erty.”.

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