

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3196

To designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the “Vera Rubin Survey Telescope”.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To designate the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope as the “Vera Rubin Survey Telescope”.

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 “Vera Rubin Survey  
5 Telescope Designation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Dr. Vera Rubin was born July 23, 1928, to  
9 Philip and Rose Applebaum Cooper.

1           (2) Dr. Rubin pursued her graduate studies at  
2           Cornell University and Georgetown University, earn-  
3           ing her Ph.D. in Physics in 1954.

4           (3) Dr. Rubin's Ph.D. thesis on galaxy motions  
5           provided supporting evidence that galaxies are not  
6           uniformly distributed, but exist in clusters.

7           (4) Dr. Rubin continued to study the motions  
8           of galaxies, first as research associate and assistant  
9           professor at Georgetown University, and then as a  
10          member of the staff at the Carnegie Institution of  
11          Washington Department of Terrestrial Magnetism.

12          (5) Dr. Rubin faced barriers throughout her ca-  
13          reer because of her gender.

14          (6) For instance, one of the world's leading as-  
15          tronomy facilities at the time, the Palomar Observ-  
16          atory, did not permit women. Dr. Rubin persisted  
17          and was finally allowed to observe at Palomar in  
18          1965, the first woman officially allowed to do so.

19          (7) In 1970, Dr. Rubin published measure-  
20          ments of the Andromeda galaxy showing stars and  
21          gas orbiting the galaxy's center too fast to be ex-  
22          plained by the amount of mass associated with the  
23          light output of the stars.

24          (8) In the years that followed, Dr. Rubin and  
25          her collaborators used their observations, in conjunc-

1       tion with the work by earlier astronomers on the ro-  
2       tation of stars in spiral galaxies, to provide some of  
3       the best evidence for the existence of dark matter.

4           (9) This work contributed to a major shift in  
5       the conventional view of the universe, from one  
6       dominated by ordinary matter such as what pro-  
7       duces the light of stars, to one dominated by dark  
8       matter.

9           (10) Dr. Rubin was elected to the National  
10      Academy of Sciences in 1981, the second woman as-  
11      tronomer to be so honored.

12          (11) Dr. Rubin was awarded the President's  
13      National Medal of Science in 1993 "for her pio-  
14      neering research programs in observational cos-  
15      mology which demonstrated that much of the matter  
16      in the universe is dark, and for significant contribu-  
17      tions to the realization that the universe is more  
18      complex and more mysterious than had been imag-  
19      ined".

20          (12) Dr. Rubin was an outspoken advocate for  
21      the equal treatment and representation of women in  
22      science, and she served as a mentor, supporter, and  
23      role model to many women astronomers throughout  
24      her life.

1           (13) The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope,  
2 funded jointly by the National Science Foundation  
3 and the Department of Energy, will honor the legacy  
4 of Dr. Rubin and her colleagues to probe the nature  
5 of dark matter by mapping and cataloging billions of  
6 galaxies through space and time.

7 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION.**

8           The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope shall be known  
9 and designated as the “Vera Rubin Survey Telescope”.

10 **SEC. 4. REFERENCES.**

11           Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document,  
12 paper, or other record of the United States to the facility  
13 described in section 3 shall be deemed to be a reference  
14 to the “Vera Rubin Survey Telescope”.

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