

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 823

To preserve American space leadership, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. OLSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To preserve American space leadership, 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 Leadership
5 Preservation Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the Amer-
8 ican space program will always be the best in the world,
9 and to ensure that America will always be able to preserve

1 and protect our leadership in the exploration of outer
2 space, the high ground of the future. Congress is hopeful
3 that by restructuring NASA we can make the Agency less
4 political and more professional so that visionary NASA
5 scientists, engineers, and astronauts will continue to in-
6 spire future generations by their continuing mission: to
7 explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life, to boldly
8 go where no one has gone before.

9 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR.**

10 Section 20111 of title 51, United States Code, is
11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) by striking “ADMINISTRATOR.—There
14 is established” and inserting “ADMINIS-
15 TRATOR.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established”;

17 (B) in paragraph (1), as so designated by
18 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by insert-
19 ing “The Administrator shall serve for a term
20 of 6 years.” after “and activities thereof.”; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraph:

23 “(2) BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS.—

24 The President may appoint the Administrator under
25 paragraph (1) from among the list of nominees pro-

1 vided by the Board of Directors pursuant to section
2 20118(j)(2)(A).”; and

3 (2) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) by striking “ADMINISTRATOR.—There
5 shall be” and inserting “ADMINISTRATOR.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be”;

7 (B) in paragraph (1), as so designated by
8 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by insert-
9 ing “The Deputy Administrator shall not act
10 for, and exercise the powers of, the Adminis-
11 trator for a period in excess of 45 days. After
12 45 days, the Associate Administrator shall exer-
13 cise the powers of Administrator until a new
14 Administrator is appointed and confirmed by
15 the Senate.” after “absence or disability.”; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

18 “(2) BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS.—

19 The President may appoint the Deputy Adminis-
20 trator under paragraph (1) from among the list of
21 nominees provided by the Board of Directors pursu-
22 ant to section 20118(j)(2)(B).”.

1 **SEC. 4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter II of chapter 201
3 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at
4 the end the following new section:

5 **“§ 20118. Board of Directors**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be established a
7 Board of Directors for the National Aeronautics and
8 Space Administration in accordance with this section, not
9 later than 9 months after the date of enactment of the
10 Space Leadership Preservation Act of 2013.

11 “(b) MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT.—The Board
12 shall consist of 11 members to be appointed as follows:

13 “(1) 3 members shall be appointed by the
14 President.

15 “(2) 3 members shall be appointed by the presi-
16 dent pro tempore of the Senate.

17 “(3) 1 member shall be appointed by the minor-
18 ity leader of the Senate.

19 “(4) 3 members shall be appointed by the
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

21 “(5) 1 member shall be appointed by the minor-
22 ity leader of the House of Representatives.

23 In addition to the members appointed under paragraphs
24 (1) through (5), the Administrator shall be an ex officio,
25 nonvoting member of the Board.

1 “(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The persons appointed as
2 members of the Board shall be—

3 “(1) former astronauts or scientists or engi-
4 neers eminent in the fields of human spaceflight,
5 planetary science, space science, Earth science, and
6 aeronautics, or other scientific, engineering, busi-
7 ness, and social science disciplines related to space
8 and aeronautics;

9 “(2) selected on the basis of established records
10 of distinguished service; and

11 “(3) so selected as to provide representation of
12 the views of engineering, science, and aerospace
13 leaders in all areas of the Nation.

14 “(d) LIMITATION ON MEMBERS.—An individual em-
15 ployed by or representing an organization with which the
16 Administration has a contract is not eligible to serve on
17 the Board, except for scientists employed by or rep-
18 resenting colleges, universities, and other not-for-profit or-
19 ganizations. Any such scientists serving on the Board shall
20 not directly work on a study, project, or program that re-
21 ceives funding through a grant from or contract with the
22 Administration, and shall recuse themselves from any
23 Board consideration of programs affecting their place of
24 employment. Additionally, a former Board member may
25 not take employment with or represent an organization

1 with which the Administration has a contract, or which
2 is seeking such a contract, for a period of 2 years following
3 completion of service on the Board.

4 “(e) TERMS.—The term of office of each member of
5 the Board shall be 3 years, except that any member ap-
6 pointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration
7 of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall
8 be appointed for the remainder of such term. Any person
9 who has been a member of the Board for 12 consecutive
10 years shall thereafter be ineligible for appointment during
11 the 2-year period following the expiration of such 12th
12 year.

13 “(f) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet quarterly
14 and at such other times as the Chairman may determine,
15 but the Chairman shall also call a meeting whenever one-
16 third of the members so request in writing. The Board
17 shall adopt procedures governing the conduct of its meet-
18 ings, including delivery of notice and a definition of a
19 quorum, which in no case shall be less than one-half plus
20 one of the members of the Board.

21 “(g) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The election
22 of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board shall
23 take place at each first quarter meeting occurring in an
24 even-numbered year. The Vice Chairman shall perform the
25 duties of the Chairman in his absence. In case a vacancy

1 occurs in the chairmanship or vice chairmanship, the
2 Board shall elect a member to fill such vacancy.

3 “(h) STAFF.—The Board may, with the concurrence
4 of a majority of its members, permit the appointment of
5 a staff consisting of professional staff members, technical
6 and professional personnel on leave of absence from aca-
7 demic, industrial, or research institutions for a limited
8 term, and such operations and support staff members as
9 may be necessary. Such staff shall be appointed by the
10 Chairman and assigned at the direction of the Board. The
11 professional members and limited term technical and pro-
12 fessional personnel of such staff may be appointed without
13 regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code,
14 governing appointments in the competitive service, and the
15 provisions of chapter 51 of such title relating to classifica-
16 tion, and shall be compensated at a rate not exceeding
17 the maximum rate payable under section 5376 of such
18 title, as may be necessary to provide for the performance
19 of such duties as may be prescribed by the Board in con-
20 nection with the exercise of its powers and functions under
21 this section.

22 “(i) COMMITTEES.—The Board is also authorized to
23 appoint from among its members such committees as it
24 deems necessary, and to assign to committees so appointed
25 such survey and advisory functions as the Board deems

1 appropriate to assist it in exercising its powers and func-
2 tions under this section.

3 “(j) FUNCTIONS.—

4 “(1) BUDGET PROPOSAL.—Not later than No-
5 vember 15 of each year, the Board shall provide to
6 the President, and to the Committee on Appropria-
7 tions and the Committee on Science, Space, and
8 Technology of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on
10 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
11 ate, a proposed budget for the National Aeronautics
12 and Space Administration for the next fiscal year.
13 Such budget shall—

14 “(A) carry out the purpose described in
15 section 20102(h);

16 “(B) be based on—

17 “(i) the best professional judgement
18 of the Board;

19 “(ii) recommendations from the sci-
20 entific, engineering, and other technical ex-
21 perts communities; and

22 “(iii) the recommendations of the
23 most recent National Research Council
24 decadal surveys; and

1 “(C) follow such decadal surveys’ rec-
2 ommended decision rules regarding program
3 implementation, including a strict adherence to
4 the recommendation that the National Aero-
5 nautics and Space Administration include in a
6 balanced program a flagship class mission,
7 which may be executed in cooperation with one
8 or more international partners.

9 “(2) NOMINEES FOR ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY
10 ADMINISTRATOR, AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—

11 The Board shall provide to the President—

12 “(A) a list of 3 nominees from which the
13 President may appoint an Administrator pursu-
14 ant to section 20111(a);

15 “(B) a list of 3 nominees from which the
16 President may appoint a Deputy Administrator
17 pursuant to section 20111(b) and

18 “(C) a list of 3 nominees from which the
19 President may appoint a Chief Financial Offi-
20 cer pursuant to section 205(a) of the Chief Fi-
21 nancial Officers Act (31 U.S.C. 901(a)).

22 The Board shall provide the first set of nominees
23 under this paragraph not later than 15 months after
24 the date of enactment of the Space Leadership Pres-
25 ervation Act of 2013.

1 “(3) REPORTS.—

2 “(A) ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE, CAPA-
3 BILITIES, AND WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.—The
4 Board shall provide to the President and the
5 Congress annually a report assessing the status
6 of United States spaceflight infrastructure,
7 unique space capabilities, and the health of the
8 United States workforce necessary to maintain
9 such infrastructure and capabilities. The assess-
10 ment shall also identify areas of concern, gaps
11 in capability compared to foreign spaceflight ca-
12 pabilities, and recommendations on how to
13 strengthen or improve United States capabili-
14 ties and workforce.

15 “(B) SPECIFIC POLICY MATTER RE-
16 PORTS.—The Board shall provide to the Presi-
17 dent and the Congress reports on specific, indi-
18 vidual policy matters within the authority of the
19 Administration (or otherwise as requested by
20 the Congress or the President) related to
21 human space flight, planetary science, earth
22 science, aeronautics, and science, technology,
23 engineering, and mathematics education, as the
24 Board, the President, or the Congress deter-
25 mines the need for such reports.

1 “(4) QUADRENNIAL REVIEW.—The Board shall
2 provide to the President and the Congress, not later
3 than the later of 180 days after the establishment
4 of the Board or the third quarterly meeting of the
5 Board, and once every 4 years thereafter, a quadren-
6 nial review of current space programs and a vision
7 for future space exploration.

8 “(5) REMOVAL FOR CAUSE.—The Board may
9 provide to the President and the Congress a report
10 recommending the removal of the Administrator, the
11 Deputy Administrator, or the Chief Financial Offi-
12 cer for cause. Any such report shall include the rea-
13 sons for such recommendation.

14 “(k) BUDGET MEETINGS.—Portions of Board meet-
15 ings in which the Board considers the budget proposal re-
16 quired under subsection (j)(1) for a particular fiscal year
17 may be closed to the public until the Board submits the
18 proposal to the President and the Congress.

19 “(l) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.—Members of the
20 Board shall be required to file a financial disclosure report
21 under title II of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978
22 (5 U.S.C. App. 92 Stat. 1836), except that such reports
23 shall be held confidential and exempt from any law other-
24 wise requiring their public disclosure.”.

1 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for
2 chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended
3 by adding at the end of the items for subchapter II the
4 following new item:

“20118. Board of Directors.”.

5 **SEC. 5. BUDGET PROPOSAL.**

6 Section 30103 of title 51, United States Code, is
7 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(e) BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROPOSAL.—

10 “(1) INCLUSION IN PRESIDENT’S PROPOSED
11 BUDGET.—The proposed budget for the Administra-
12 tion submitted to the Congress by the President for
13 each fiscal year shall include a description of, and a
14 detailed justification for, any differences between the
15 President’s proposed budget and the budget pro-
16 vided by the Board of Directors under section
17 20118(j)(1).

18 “(2) ELEMENTS OF BUDGET PROPOSAL.—Sub-
19 sections (a) through (d) of this section shall apply
20 to the proposed budget provided by the Board of Di-
21 rectors under section 20118(j)(1).”.

22 **SEC. 6. LONG TERM CONTRACTING.**

23 (a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 20142 of title 51,
24 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**Con-**
2 **tracts regarding expendable launch vehi-**
3 **cles**” and inserting “**Long term contracting**”;

4 (2) in subsection (a), by—

5 (A) striking “expendable launch vehicle
6 services” and inserting “rocket propulsion sys-
7 tems and manned and unmanned space trans-
8 portation vehicles and payloads, including ex-
9 pendable launch vehicles, and any other infra-
10 structure intended for placement or operation
11 in space or on celestial bodies, and services re-
12 lated thereto,”; and

13 (B) striking “related to launch” and in-
14 serting “related to”; and

15 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “launch serv-
16 ices” and inserting “the goods and services to have
17 been provided under the contract”.

18 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The item
19 relating to section 20142 in the table of sections for chap-
20 ter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

“20142. Long term contracting.”.

○