

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1562

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide certain authority to the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate commercial space transportation accidents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. DEFazio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide certain authority to the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate commercial space transportation accidents, 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 “Commercial Space
5 Transportation Safety Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. GENERAL AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL TRANS-**
2 **PORTATION SAFETY BOARD.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1131(a)(1) of title 49,
4 United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (E) by striking “and” at
6 the end;

7 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
8 paragraph (G); and

9 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(F) a commercial space transportation acci-
12 dent in which there is—

13 “(i) a known impact of a commercial
14 launch vehicle, the payload of such vehicle, or
15 any component thereof outside of the hazard
16 area designated for the launch or reentry of
17 such vehicle;

18 “(ii) a fatality or significant injury of any
19 individual, regardless of whether the individual
20 was on board the commercial launch vehicle at
21 the time of the accident; or

22 “(iii) substantial damage to property that
23 is not associated with commercial space launch
24 activities and that is not located at the launch
25 site; and”.

1 (b) OTHER INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES.—Section
2 1131(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
3 by adding at the end the following:

4 “(D) The Board shall seek to enter into a memo-
5 randum of understanding with any Government agency
6 with the authority to certify a commercial space transpor-
7 tation operation. Such memoranda shall delineate the con-
8 ditions under which a commercial space transportation ac-
9 cident that may be investigated by the Board under sub-
10 paragraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (1) will instead be in-
11 vestigated by the other Government agency. Such memo-
12 randa may not preclude the Board’s participation in the
13 other Government agency’s investigation.”.

14 (c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—None of the amendments
15 made by subsection (a) shall be construed to limit the au-
16 thority of the National Transportation Safety Board to
17 investigate any other commercial space transportation ac-
18 cident that, in the judgement of the Board, falls under
19 the authority of the Board under section 1131(a)(1)(G)
20 (as redesignated by this Act).

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