

97TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4286

To establish a national space and aeronautics policy, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 1981

Mr. GINGRICH (for himself, Mr. EMBEY, Mr. DORNAN of California, Mr. WIRTH, Mr. DERWINSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MADDOX, Mr. WHITEHURST, Mr. YATRON, Mr. FORSYTHE, Mr. ROE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. DOUGHERTY, and Mr. WILSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

---

## A BILL

To establish a national space and aeronautics policy, 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 That this Act may be cited as the "National Space and Aero-  
4 nautics Policy Act of 1981".

### TITLE I—DECLARATION OF POLICY

#### FINDINGS

7 SEC. 101. The Congress finds and declares that:

1           (1) The activities of the United States related to  
2 the explorations, utilization, and scientific study of the  
3 space environment have vastly increased our knowl-  
4 edge of the Earth, its history, its resources, and their  
5 future limitations.

6           (2) The scientific and technical advancements re-  
7 sulting from the activities of the United States in space  
8 and aeronautics are contributing in ever-increasing  
9 ways to the improvement of life on Earth, particularly  
10 in the areas of health, education, food production, envi-  
11 ronment, protective resource utilization, defense,  
12 energy production and conservation, communications,  
13 transportation, and protection from natural hazards.

14           (3) The retrenchment of United States space and  
15 aeronautical activities since the early 1970's has re-  
16 sulted in a serious threat to our economic progress, our  
17 national defense, and to our leadership role in the es-  
18 tablishment of the facilities of our civilization in space.

19           (4) In recent years, the Nation's civilian space  
20 program has suffered for its lack of an open-ended  
21 series of connected long-range goals. An appropriate  
22 first step would be the design, development, and con-  
23 struction of a permanent, manned, multipurpose space  
24 operations center in low Earth orbit.

1           (5) The United States is faced increasingly with  
2           competition in the economics of space, and this compe-  
3           tition poses a tangible commercial challenge to Ameri-  
4           can industry and government.

5           (6) The measured acceleration of well-managed  
6           space and aeronautics activities by the United States,  
7           State and local governments, public and private institu-  
8           tions, and industry will further benefit the Nation far  
9           exceeding the cost of such activities.

10          (7) A strong and vibrant United States civilian  
11          space program will, in addition to providing many  
12          other important benefits, do as much to enhance the  
13          Nation's security as a necessarily strong and separate  
14          military space program.

15          (8) The future potential of automated satellites  
16          which collect and distribute many kinds of information  
17          around the Earth include major improvements in tele-  
18          communications, weather and ocean forecasting and  
19          monitoring, natural hazard predictions, Earth resources  
20          sensing, and communications services.

21          (9) The activities of the United States in the  
22          space environment have demonstrated the great poten-  
23          tial for the beneficial application of weightlessness, infi-  
24          nite volumes of vacuum and the orbital view of the  
25          Earth, Sun, and stars.

1           (10) The future potential of permanent manned  
2           and automated facilities in orbit around the Earth in-  
3           clude those aspects of our civilization that provide for  
4           research, education, power production, manufacturing,  
5           and health care.

6           (11) The continued exploration and utilization of  
7           the solar system, including the Moon and Mars, is im-  
8           portant to present and future generations of Americans  
9           and should be a long-term goal of the United States  
10          space program.

11          (12) The future space and aeronautical activities  
12          of the United States must be sustained by a variety of  
13          interrelated research, development, and demonstration  
14          programs which create the knowledge and capability  
15          necessary to maintain leadership in such activities.

16          (13) The future space and aeronautical activities  
17          of the United States must encourage the cooperative  
18          participation of commercial, institutional, and interna-  
19          tional interests in all appropriate undertakings, and  
20          that these activities provide new opportunities for in-  
21          ternational cooperation in the realization of benefits for  
22          all mankind.

23          (14) It is in the national interest to establish a  
24          United States space and aeronautics policy directed  
25          toward the creation of—

1 (A) a world information system during the  
2 1980's that could consist of permanent, generally  
3 self-financing services in telecommunications,  
4 weather and ocean forecasting, Earth resources  
5 sensing, communications services, and natural  
6 hazard predictions;

7 (B) orbital facilities during the 1990's that  
8 could consist of permanent, generally self-financ-  
9 ing facilities for research, education, power pro-  
10 duction, manufacturing, and health care;

11 (C) a solar system exploration capability  
12 during the first decade of the twenty-first century  
13 which provides the options for Moon bases,  
14 manned missions to Mars, a Moon settlement,  
15 manned missions to Venus, and a Mars settle-  
16 ment;

17 (D) space technology development necessary  
18 to support the world information systems, orbital  
19 facilities and solar system exploration as set forth  
20 in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C);

21 (E) space research and applications on a  
22 gradually accelerating basis in planetary sciences,  
23 basic space sciences, astronomy, solar sciences,  
24 and engineering; and

1 (F) aeronautical technology development nec-  
2 essary to support general and commercial avi-  
3 ation, rotorcraft, alternative fuels for aircraft pro-  
4 pulsion, and appropriate new flight concepts.

5 PURPOSE

6 SEC. 102. It is the purpose of this Act to establish a  
7 comprehensive national civilian space and aeronautics policy  
8 that will provide the framework for a world information  
9 system, Earth orbital facilities, exploration of the solar  
10 system, and the development of other space and aeronautical  
11 activities in order to preserve and expand the leadership of  
12 the United States in space and aeronautics.

13 TITLE II—NATIONAL SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

14 POLICY

15 NATIONAL SPACE AND AERONAUTICS POLICY

16 SEC. 201. The Congress declares that the United States  
17 is committed to the expansion of the peaceful use of space  
18 and atmospheric environments for the benefit of the Nation  
19 and of all mankind and pursuant thereto establishes the fol-  
20 lowing national space and aeronautics principles:

21 (1) The United States is committed to the peace-  
22 ful expansion of the benefits of free institutions and en-  
23 terprises based on free institutions into space.

1           (2) The United States is committed to the peace-  
2           ful use of the environments of space and the atmos-  
3           phere.

4           (3) The United States is committed to the alloca-  
5           tions of an appropriate and consistent fraction of its  
6           gross national product to the development of space and  
7           aeronautical capabilities and to the support of appropri-  
8           ate sustained activities in space and the atmosphere.

9           (4) The United States is committed to the estab-  
10          lishment of direction and continuity in space and aero-  
11          nautical policy for present and future generations,  
12          while maintaining the necessary flexibility to ensure  
13          that new scientific developments can appropriately in-  
14          fluence this policy.

15          (5) The United States is committed to a space and  
16          aeronautics policy that is directed toward the allevi-  
17          ation of the major human adversities of hunger, dis-  
18          ease, poverty, ignorance, and war.

19          (6) The United States is committed to a space and  
20          aeronautics policy that integrates budgetary require-  
21          ments between all elements of the policy and between  
22          governmental, private, and international participants in  
23          related activities.

24          (7) The United States is committed to the encour-  
25          agement and continued establishment, to the maximum

1 extent practicable, of self-financing, non-Federal, aca-  
2 demic, or commercial enterprises in space and aeronau-  
3 tics.

4 (8) The United States is committed to the expan-  
5 sion of scientific knowledge and wisdom through the  
6 utilization of space and aeronautical resources and ca-  
7 pabilities.

8 (9) The United States is committed to the widest  
9 transfer of space and aeronautical technologies on a  
10 national and international basis.

11 (10) The United States is committed to the trans-  
12 fer, by appropriate and timely means, of mature, oper-  
13 ational Federal space and aeronautics programs and  
14 technology systems to the private sector, while main-  
15 taining significant Federal advanced research and de-  
16 velopment in these technology program areas.

17 (11) The United States is committed to the main-  
18 tenance and expansion of its world leadership in space  
19 and aeronautical technology as a principal means of in-  
20 suring the free world economic and political strength.

21 (12) The United States recognizes that the facili-  
22 ties, bases, or settlements of any nation or internation-  
23 al organization are the property of such nation or in-  
24 ternational organization and have the right of passage  
25 through and operations in space without interference,

1 and that purposeful interference with such systems  
2 shall be viewed as an infringement on sovereign rights.

3 (13) The United States is committed to conduct-  
4 ing cooperative international space activities that pro-  
5 vide economic, scientific, technological, political, and  
6 other benefits to the United States and mankind.

7 (14) The United States is committed to conduct-  
8 ing national and international activities in space with  
9 the maximum possible attention given to the safety of  
10 participants in that activity, the safety of people and  
11 facilities on Earth, the efficient use of the common  
12 heritage resources of space and the atmosphere, and  
13 the protection of the terrestrial, atmospheric, and space  
14 environment.

15 SEC. 202. The Congress declares that the United States  
16 is committed to the expansion of free people and free institu-  
17 tions into space.

18 TITLE III—PROGRAM

19 SEC. 301. To assure the timely achievement of the  
20 policy and purpose of this Act, the National Aeronautics and  
21 Space Administration, in cooperation with appropriate pri-  
22 vate, governmental, and international groups, shall pursue  
23 aggressive research, systems development, and demonstra-  
24 tion in space and aeronautics science and technology. Such

1 activities could include, but not be limited to, the following  
2 integrated programs:

3 (1) The creation of an operational world informa-  
4 tion system by the year 1990 that would include, but  
5 not be limited to, the following elements:

6 (A) an expanded telecommunications network  
7 that makes maximum efficient use of the frequen-  
8 cy and orbital position resources in near Earth  
9 space;

10 (B) an expanded weather and oceans fore-  
11 casting and monitoring network that provides all  
12 peoples with short-term assistance in preparing  
13 for weather and ocean phenomena and protection  
14 from natural hazards;

15 (C) an operational Earth resources monitor-  
16 ing system that collects and makes available data  
17 necessary for maximum efficient and environmen-  
18 tally sound utilization of natural and agricultural  
19 resources on Earth; and

20 (D) an expanded communications service  
21 system that maximizes benefits available from  
22 Earth-orbiting satellites.

23 (2) The development of the basic facilities and sci-  
24 entific and technological capabilities by the year 2000  
25 necessary to create space facilities supportive of our

1 terrestrial civilization which could include, but not be  
2 limited to, the following elements—

3 (A) research in basic science and engineering  
4 that makes use of the unique characteristics of the  
5 space environment;

6 (B) education in disciplines that can benefit  
7 from instruction and research in the space envi-  
8 ronment and with the space perspective;

9 (C) space power availability sufficient to sup-  
10 port the inorbit requirements of other facilities;

11 (D) manufacturing that makes use of the  
12 unique characteristics of the space environment;

13 (E) health care that makes use of the unique  
14 physiological and psychological characteristics of  
15 human beings in the space environment;

16 (F) an environmentally acceptable space to  
17 Earth power capability that is economically com-  
18 petitive with power generation on Earth; and

19 (G) space participation opportunities for as  
20 broad a spectrum of human beings as possible.

21 (3) The development of scientific and technologi-  
22 cal capabilities by the year 2010 to undertake further  
23 solar system exploration by mankind.

24 (4) The coordinated development of economical  
25 and reliable scientific and technological capabilities

1 necessary to carry out the programs defined by para-  
2 graphs 301 (1), (2), and (3) which would include, but  
3 not be limited to, the following elements:

4 (A) Earth to near-Earth space transportation  
5 systems;

6 (B) modern habitation and work units neces-  
7 sary to construct orbital facilities;

8 (C) high power production and transmission  
9 systems for use in orbit and from orbit;

10 (D) large space structures;

11 (E) large multipurpose platforms in low  
12 Earth orbit;

13 (F) large capacity Earth to orbit booster sys-  
14 tems;

15 (G) reusable orbit-to-orbit transfer vehicle to  
16 carry manned and unmanned payloads between  
17 low Earth and geosynchronous orbit;

18 (H) Earth to Moon and return transportation  
19 system;

20 (I) deep space booster system for manned  
21 solar system exploration; and

22 (J) planetary surface structures for habitation  
23 and work.

1 (5) The establishment and maintenance of re-  
2 search and application programs that would include,  
3 but not be limited to, activities in the following areas:

4 (A) planetary sciences;

5 (B) basic space sciences, including physics,  
6 chemistry, and biology;

7 (C) astronomy and astrophysics;

8 (D) solar sciences; and

9 (E) engineering.

10 (6) The establishment and maintenance of aero-  
11 nautical technology programs essential to maintain and  
12 enhance United States preeminence in the design, op-  
13 eration, and manufacture of aircraft. Such programs  
14 should include, but not be limited to systems design;  
15 basic and applied research in aerodynamics, materials,  
16 structures, propulsion, and manufacturing techniques;  
17 the study and simulation of operational concepts; and  
18 the design, procurement, and operation of experimental  
19 aircraft in the fields of—

20 (A) general aviation;

21 (B) commercial aviation, including commuter  
22 aircraft;

23 (C) rotorcraft;

24 (D) alternate fuels for aircraft propulsion;

25 and

1 (E) new flight concepts at the frontiers of  
2 aviation technology.

3 THIRTY-YEAR POLICY GOALS

4 SEC. 302. The Administrator of the National Aeronau-  
5 tics and Space Administration, together with the Director of  
6 the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and after con-  
7 sultation with appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop  
8 and submit to the Congress for review and comment no later  
9 than one hundred and eighty days after enactment of this  
10 Act, a preliminary five-year program including proposed  
11 annual funding requirements and a detailed research and de-  
12 velopment schedule. No later than one year after the date of  
13 enactment of the Act, the Administrator shall submit a final  
14 five-year program, a ten-year plan, and a thirty-year policy  
15 goals. Status reports and revisions to the program, plan, and  
16 policy goals shall be submitted to the Congress on an annual  
17 basis in conjunction with the submission of budget request  
18 beginning with the third fiscal year after enactment of this  
19 Act.

20 AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS

21 SEC. 303. Beginning with the third fiscal year begin-  
22 ning after the date of its enactment, the provisions of this Act  
23 shall be the general basis for authorizations of funds for the  
24 National Aeronautics and Space Administration consistent

1 with the provisions of the National Aeronautics and Space  
2 Act of 1958.

3 TITLE IV—GOVERNMENT OF SPACE

4 TERRITORIES

5 CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION

6 SEC. 401. All persons residing in any community in  
7 space organized under the authority and flag of the United  
8 States shall be entitled to the protection of the Constitution  
9 of the United States.

10 SELF GOVERNMENT

11 SEC. 402. Whenever any such community shall have  
12 acquired twenty thousand inhabitants, on giving due proof  
13 thereof to Congress, they shall receive from Congress author-  
14 ity with appointment of time and place to call a convention of  
15 representatives to establish a permanent constitution and  
16 government for themselves.

17 ADMISSION TO STATEHOOD

18 SEC. 403. Whenever any such community shall have as  
19 many inhabitants as shall then be in any one of the least  
20 numerous of the United States such community shall be ad-  
21 mitted as a State into the Congress of the United States on  
22 an equal footing with the original States.

