



News From
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The SPACE Act Bill Summary

Why Is the SPACE Act Necessary?

- The SPACE Act is necessary because in their planned transition from the Space Shuttle to Constellation, NASA has fallen short in several key areas.
 - The planned five-year gap that begins in 2010 is too abrupt, especially on the workforce. A more gradual slope needs to be sought.
 - NASA relies solely on the Russians for U.S. human access to space between 2010 and 2015, at a time when our relationship with the Kremlin has been declining and with little understanding of where that relationship will be 3 to 8 years.
 - By extending Shuttle operations will we be able to fully develop the International Space Station (ISS) as was planned. Major systems such as the AMS and the Japanese centrifuge will not be added to the Space Station unless Shuttle operations are extended beyond 2010.
 - The SPACE Act guarantees U.S. access to space. Why should the greatest space-faring nation on Earth depend on other nations for access to space for a period of at least 5 years?

What Does the SPACE Act Do?

The SPACE Act:

- Sets forth the reasons the SPACE Act is needed;
- Prohibits the sole reliance on Russia between 2010 and 2015 for U.S. human space flight;
- Authorizes additional money to fully fund NASA, restoring the funding shortfalls in the 2007 and 2008 appropriations;
- Authorizes funding for at least two Shuttle flights per year, 2010 through 2015, or until Orion is operational;
- Directs NASA to undertake operational efficiencies to lower the cost of operating the Shuttle program;
- Requires NASA to develop a process for and to recertify the Shuttle for operations beyond 2010; and
- Ensures that in the absence of insufficient funding for continued operation of the Shuttle, the Constellation program is not delayed.

What specific Additional Funding Does the SPACE Act Include?

The SPACE Act authorizes \$3.7 billion to fund NASA for:

- \$2.7 billion through extending NASA funding that was authorized for 2007 and 2008 for which Congress did not appropriate funding. This ensures that the failure of Congress to provide full funding for NASA for 2007 and 2008 does not jeopardize continued operation of the Shuttle and timely development of Constellation program.
- \$1 billion in emergency funding to reimburse NASA for the costs associated with Return-to-Flight costs incurred in the aftermath of the Columbia tragedy.
- “Such sums as may be necessary” to fly two Shuttle flights per year for fiscal years 2010-2015.