



Massey Hill Classical Challenge

Congressional Debate Legislation

December 6, 2025

Session One: Space Regulation

- A Bill to Fund Space Debris Removal
- The SPACE Act
- A Bill to Set a Moratorium for Space Tourism

Session Two: Territory Policy

- The STATES Act
- A Resolution to Offer Territory Status to Taiwan
- A Bill to Fund a Student Exchange Program with U.S. Territories

Session One: Space Regulation



A Bill to Fund Space Debris Removal

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. shall allocate \$500 million annually over the next 20 years to fund
2 the research, development, and deployment of technologies for the active
3 removal of orbital space debris.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation
- 5 A. Active space debris shall be defined as any non-functional,
6 human-made object in the Earth’s orbit. This includes but is not limited
7 to: defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, and fragments resulting from
8 collision
- 9 B. Active Debris Removal (ADR) shall refer to the intentional removal or
10 mitigation of space debris through technological means such as robotic
11 arms, nets, or propulsion systems.
- 12 **SECTION 3.** Eligible uses of funds shall include but are not limited to:
- 13 A. Development of debris tracking and capture technologies;
- 14 B. Contracts with private companies for debris removal missions;
15 a. International cooperative projects related to ADR;
- 16 C. Creation of a national debris monitoring and response program;
- 17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be funded and overseen by the National Aeronautics
18 and Space Administration (NASA)
- 19 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this
20 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Massey Hill Classical High School.

The SPACE Act; or an Act to Save and Protect Astronauts from Cosmic Endangerment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. shall enforce rescue operations and aid for astronauts in distress, in
2 line with international space law and the 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of
3 Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched into
4 Outer Space.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation, the following definitions apply:
- 6 A. “Astronauts” shall mean all persons onboard any U.S. registered
7 spacecraft or operating under a U.S. license or by a U.S. company.
- 8 B. “Rescue operations” shall include reasonable steps taken to locate,
9 assist, and recover astronauts or crew in danger, whether in orbit, on
10 celestial bodies, or during reentry.
- 11 C. Integration of territorial laws with U.S. federal law and the U.S.
12 Constitution.
- 13 **SECTION 3.** The application of this legislation will be handled primarily by NASA, with
14 assistance from the FAA. These duties involve:
- 15 A. NASA and the FAA will create a standard for emergency responses that
16 are applicable to public and private space missions.
- 17 B. Assisting all U.S.-licensed commercial space operators to submit a
18 certified Astronaut Emergency Recovery Plan (AERP) as a condition of
19 launch approval.
- 20 C. Annual reports detailing all incidents to be submitted to Congress.
- 21 **SECTION 4.** Necessary funding shall be appropriated from existing NASA and FAA federal
22 budgets, with supplementary funds provided as necessary by Congress.
- 23 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect FY 2027. All laws in conflict with this legislation
24 are hereby declared null and void.

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A Bill to Set a Moratorium for Space Tourism

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Commercial space tourism shall be prohibited for U.S based companies
2 and/or companies planning to launch within the United States air space
3 until federal safety and environmental regulations are established and
4 enforced.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** For the purposes of this legislation, the following definitions apply:
6 A. “Space tourism” shall be defined as the act of sending persons into
7 suborbital or orbital space for recreational purposes.
8 B. “Federal safety and environmental regulations” will be defined as
9 company policy or legislation that ensures aversion of danger to
10 passengers and operators and minimizes environmental impact to
11 sustainable standards as set by the FAA.
- 12 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Commercial Space
13 Transportation shall develop and implement the necessary safety and
14 environmental regulations.
- 15 **SECTION 4.** Companies found in violation of this act shall be fined no less than \$10
16 million per unauthorized launch.
- 17 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in
18 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Session Two: Territory Policy



The STATES Act; or An Act to Supply Territories Access Towards Entering Statehood

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** U.S. territories shall be given the opportunity to pursue statehood through
2 a formal process, which is contingent upon meeting certain democratic
3 standards established in this legislation.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Eligibility for statehood will, in this context, mean:
- 5 A. Voter turnout in local or territorial elections exceeding 50% over the
6 previous two election cycles.
- 7 B. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita at least 60% of the
8 national average for the previous five fiscal years.
- 9 C. Integration of territorial laws with U.S. federal law and the U.S.
10 Constitution.
- 11 D. Approval of statehood by a two-thirds majority of eligible voters,
12 certified by Congress.
- 13 **SECTION 3.** The implementation of this legislation will be handled jointly by the
14 Department of the Interior. These duties involve:
- 15 A. Monitor and evaluate progress towards the goal of statehood.
- 16 B. Publish an annual report analyzing progress.
- 17 C. Submit a report to Congress detailing the execution of standards to
18 ensure eligibility.
- 19 D. Facilitating the transition to statehood once standards are met.
- 20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect January 1st, 2028. All laws in conflict with
21 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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A Resolution to Offer Territory Status to Taiwan

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The United States maintains strategic ambiguity toward Taiwan, recognizing
2 the People’s Republic of China as the sole legal government of China while
3 still maintaining unofficial relations with Taiwan; and
- 4 **WHEREAS,** Taiwan has developed into a stable democracy with strong economic and
5 cultural ties to the United States
- 6 **WHEREAS,** The People’s Republic of China has increasingly encroached upon Taiwan’s
7 sovereignty through intimidation, economic and diplomatic isolation,
8 including frequent incursions into Taiwanese airspace; and
- 9 **WHEREAS,** Territorial status would grant Taiwanese citizens access to stronger defense,
10 certain rights and protections under U.S. law while allowing for
11 self-governance in domestic matters; now, therefore, be it
- 12 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States shall offer Taiwan
13 the status of an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States;
14 and, be it
- 15 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this offer shall be contingent upon the democratic consent of
16 the people of Taiwan through a domestically conducted referendum.

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A Bill to Fund a Student Exchange Program with U.S. Territories

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** A national exchange program shall be created among high school students
2 from the fifty states and the U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico, Guam,
3 American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** The following definitions apply:
- 5 A. “Exchange” shall mean a temporary placement of one academic
6 term or full school year in which a participant attends a host school
7 either in a territory, if from a state, or state, if from a territory, and
8 resides with a host family.
- 9 B. “Host school” shall mean any secondary school approved by the
10 Department of Education to host or send students under this
11 initiative, according to standards established by the Department of
12 Education.
- 13 **SECTION 4.** Funding of up to \$10 million dollars will be appropriated to the
14 Department of Education per year, and up to 500 applicants may be
15 accepted. The DOE will determine, based on where applicants are
16 assigned, how much compensation they are to receive. Funding will be
17 used for travel, to compensate host families, and ensure the safe and
18 effective education of accepted students.
- 19 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect FY 2028. All laws in conflict with this
20 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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