

stated as chapters 711 (§71101 et seq.) and 713 (§71301 et seq.) and sections 20305, 30305, 30310, 31302, 31502 to 31505, 40104, 40311, 40702 to 40704, 40903(d), 50111(b), 60501 to 60504, 60506, 70504 to 70508, 70906, and 70907 of Title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs, by Pub. L. 111-314, §§ 3, 6, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3328, 3444. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2008 Act note set out under section 10101 of Title 51 and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 111-267, §1(a), Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2805, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010’.”

§ 18302. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Administrator

The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) Appropriate committees of Congress

The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science¹ of the House of Representatives.

(3) Cis-lunar space

The term “cis-lunar space” means the region of space from the Earth out to and including the region around the surface of the Moon.

(4) Deep space

The term “deep space” means the region of space beyond cis-lunar space.

(5) ISS

The term “ISS” means the International Space Station.

(6) NASA

The term “NASA” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(7) Near-Earth space

The term “near-Earth space” means the region of space that includes low-Earth orbit and extends out to and includes geo-synchronous orbit.

(8) NOAA

The term “NOAA” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(9) OSTP

The term “OSTP” means the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(10) Space Launch System

The term “Space Launch System” means the follow-on government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by NASA to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit.

(Pub. L. 111-267, §3, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2808.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be followed by “and Technology”.

SUBCHAPTER I—POLICY, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES FOR HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT AND EXPLORATION

§ 18311. United States human space flight policy

(a) Use of non-United States human space flight transportation capabilities

It is the policy of the United States that reliance upon and use of non-United States human space flight capabilities shall be undertaken only as a contingency in circumstances where no United States-owned and operated human space flight capability is available, operational, and certified for flight by appropriate Federal agencies.

(b) United States human space flight capabilities

Congress reaffirms the policy stated in section 70501(a) of title 51, that the United States shall maintain an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations in low-Earth orbit, and beyond, as an essential instrument of national security and of the capacity to ensure continued United States participation and leadership in the exploration and utilization of space.

(Pub. L. 111-267, title II, §201, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2811.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (b), “section 70501(a) of title 51” substituted for “section 501(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16761(a))” on authority of Pub. L. 111-314, §5(e), Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3443, which Act enacted Title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs.

§ 18312. Goals and objectives

(a) Long term goal

The long term goal of the human space flight and exploration efforts of NASA shall be to expand permanent human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and to do so, where practical, in a manner involving international partners.

(b) Key objectives

The key objectives of the United States for human expansion into space shall be—

(1) to sustain the capability for long-duration presence in low-Earth orbit, initially through continuation of the ISS and full utilization of the United States segment of the ISS as a National Laboratory, and through assisting and enabling an expanded commercial presence in, and access to, low-Earth orbit, as elements of a low-Earth orbit infrastructure;

(2) to determine if humans can live in an extended manner in space with decreasing reliance on Earth, starting with utilization of low-Earth orbit infrastructure, to identify potential roles that space resources such as energy and materials may play, to meet national and global needs and challenges, such as potential cataclysmic threats, and to explore the viability of and lay the foundation for sustainable economic activities in space;

(3) to maximize the role that human exploration of space can play in advancing overall knowledge of the universe, supporting United States national and economic security and the United States global competitive posture, and