

TITLE 51—NATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL SPACE PROGRAMS

This title was enacted by Pub. L. 111–314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3328

Subtitle I—General

Chap.		Sec.
101.	Definitions	10101

Subtitle II—General Program and Policy Provisions

201.	National Aeronautics and Space Program	20101
203.	Responsibilities and Vision	20301

Subtitle III—Administrative Provisions

301.	Appropriations, Budgets, and Accounting	30101
303.	Contracting and Procurement	30301
305.	Management and Review	30501
307.	International Cooperation and Competition	30701
309.	Awards	30901
311.	Safety	31101
313.	Healthcare	31301
315.	Miscellaneous	31501

Subtitle IV—Aeronautics and Space Research and Education

401.	Aeronautics	40101
403.	National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program	40301
405.	Biomedical Research in Space	40501
407.	Environmentally Friendly Aircraft	40701
409.	Miscellaneous	40901

Subtitle V—Programs Targeting Commercial Opportunities

501.	Space Commerce	50101
503.	Commercial Reusable In-Space Transportation	50301
505.	Commercial Space Competitive-ness	50501
507.	Office of Space Commerce	50701
509.	Commercial Space Launch Activities	50901
511.	Space Transportation Infrastructure Matching Grants	51101
513.	Space resource commercial exploration and utilization ¹	51301

Subtitle VI—Earth Observations

601.	Land Remote Sensing Policy	60101
------	----------------------------------	-------

603.	Remote Sensing	60301
605.	Earth Science	60501

Subtitle VII—Access to Space

701.	Use of space launch system or alternatives ²	70101
[703.	Repealed.]	
705.	Exploration Initiatives	70501
707.	Human Space Flight Independent Investigation Commission	70701
709.	International Space Station	70901
711.	Near-Earth Objects	71101
713.	Cooperation for Safety Among Spacefaring Nations	71301

AMENDMENTS

2017—Pub. L. 115–10, title IV, §416(b), Mar. 21, 2017, 131 Stat. 35, struck out item for chapter 703 “Shuttle Pricing Policy for Commercial and Foreign Users”.

2015—Pub. L. 114–90, title I, §117(b)(1), title III, §301(a)(2), title IV, §402(b), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 718, 720, 722, added item 513 and substituted “Commerce” for “Commercialization” in item 507 and “Use of space launch system or alternatives” for “Use of Space Shuttle or Alternatives” in item 701.

2010—Pub. L. 111–314, §4(d)(7), Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3443, added items 509 and 511.

TABLE I

(Showing disposition of former sections of Title 15)

<i>Title 15 Former Sections</i>	<i>Title 51 New Sections</i>
1511e	50702
1535	50703
5601	60101 note
5602	60101
5611	60111
5612, 5613	Rep.
5614	60112
5615(a), (b)	60113
5615(c), (d)	Rep.
5621 to 5625	60121 to 60125
5631	60131
5632	60132
5633(a) to (e)	60133
5633(f), 5641(a)	Rep.
5641(b), (c)	60134
5651 to 5658	60141 to 60148
5671	60161
5672	60162
5801	50501 note
5802	50501
5803(a) to (c)	50502
5803(d)	Rep.
5805	Rep.
5806	50503
5807	50504
5808	50506

TABLE II

(Showing disposition of former sections of Title 42)

<i>Title 42 Former Sections</i>	<i>Title 51 New Sections</i>
2451	20102

¹ So in original. Probably should be “Space Resource Commercial Exploration and Utilization”.

² So in original. Probably should be “Use of Space Launch System or Alternatives”.

TABLE II—CONTINUED

<i>Title 42 Former Sections</i>	<i>Title 51 New Sections</i>
2452	20103
2453	Rep.
2454	20131
2455(a)	20132
2455(b)	20132 note
2456	20133
2456a	20134
2457	20135
2458 to 2458c	20136 to 20139
2459	20140
2459a	Elim.
2459b	20141
2459c	20142
2459d	30301
2459e	30302
2459f	20143
2459f-1	20144
2459g	30307
2459h	30308(b)
2459i	30102
2459j	20145
2459j-1	20145 note
2459k	20146
2459l	20147
2460	30101
2461	30901
2463	30303
2464	70101
2464a	Elim.
2465a(a)	70102(a)
2465a(b)	Rep.
2465a(c)	70102(b)
2465a(d)	70102(c)
2465c	70103(a)
2465f	70103(b)
2466 to 2466c	70301 to 70304
2467	40901
2467a	40902
2467b(a), (b)	40903(b), (c)
2467b(c)	40903(a)
2471, 2471a	20111 notes
2472	20111
2473(a), (b)	20112
2473(c)	20113
2473b (1st par.)	30304
2473b (last par.), 2473c(a)	Rep.
2473c(b)	31102 note
2473c(c) to (h)	31102
2473d	30309
2474(a)	Rep.
2474(b), (c)	20114(a), (b)
2474(d)	Rep.
2475	20115
2475a(a), (b)	30701(a), (b)(2)
2475b	30702
2476	20116
2476a	20117
2476b	Rep.
2477	31101
2481 to 2484	20161 to 20164
2486	40301 note
2486a to 2486i	40301 to 40309
2486k	40310
2486l	Rep.
2487	40501 note
2487a to 2487c	40501 to 40503
2487e	40504
2487f	40505
2487g	Rep.
14701	50101
14711(a)	50111(a)
14711(b)	Rep.
14712(a)	50112 note
14712(b)	50112
14713	50113
14714	50114
14715(a), (b)	50115(a), (b)
14715(c)	Rep.
14715(d), (e)	50115(c), (d)
14731	50131
14732	50132
14733(a)	50133
14733(b), (c)	Rep.
14734	50134
14735	Rep.
14751	50301 note
14752	50302
14753	50301
16601	10101 note
16611(a)	20301
16611(b)	20302
16611(c) to (g)	Elim.
16611(h)(1)	30103(a)
16611(h)(2)	Elim.
16611(i)	30103(b)
16611(j)	Elim.
16611a(a) to (c)	20303(a) to (c)
16611a(d)	Elim.
16611a(e)	20303(d)
16611a(f)	Elim.

TABLE II—CONTINUED

<i>Title 42 Former Sections</i>	<i>Title 51 New Sections</i>
16611b	30103(c)
16611b note (Pub. L. 111-8, div. B, title III, 123 Stat. 589)	30103(d)
16612	note prec. 40901
16613	30104
16614	30703
16615	30501
16616, 16617	Elim.
16618	30502
16631, 16632	Rep.
16633	70902
16634	50505
16635, 16636	Elim.
16651	30503
16652, 16653	Elim.
16654(a) (matter before par. (1))	30504(a)
16654(a)(1)	Elim.
16654(a)(2)	30504(b)
16654(b), 16655(1)	Elim.
16655(2), (3)	40904
16656	60505
16657	Elim.
16658	20304
16671 to 16676	60301 to 60306
16691	note prec. 71101
16701	40101
16711	40102
16712(a)	Elim.
16712(b)	40103
16721(a), (b)	40111
16721(c), (d)	Rep.
16722(a)	40701
16722(b) to (g)	40112(a) to (f)
16723 to 16725	40113 to 40115
16726	Rep.
16727	40116
16741	40131
16751	40141
16761(a), (b)	70501(a), (b)
16761(c)	Elim.
16762	70501 note
16763	70502
16764	70503
16765	70904
16766(1), (2)	70903
16766(3)	Elim.
16767(a), (b)	70905(b), (c)
16767(c)	Elim.
16767(d)	70905(a)
16781	31501
16782	70304 note
16791	40905
16792	30902
16793	Elim.
16794	40906
16795	40907
16796	note prec. 40901
16797	40908
16798(a)	Elim.
16798(b)	40909
16811	50116
16821	30306
16822	31301
16823	30704
16824	Elim.
16831	T. 42 §1886a
16832	Elim.
16841 to 16850	70701 to 70710
17701	20102 note
17702	10101 note
17711	60501
17712(a)	Elim.
17712(b) to (d)	60502(a) to (c)
17713(a)	60503
17713(b)	Elim.
17714	60504
17721	40702
17722	40703
17723(a)	40704 note
17723(b), (c)	40704(a), (b)
17724	40104
17731	70504
17732(a), (b)	70505(a), (b)
17732(c)	Elim.
17733(a)	70506 note
17733(b)	70506
17734	71301
17741	70507
17742	70508
17751(a)	70907
17751(b)	Elim.
17752	70906
17753	Elim.
17761	70501 note
17771	50903 note
17781(a)	Elim.
17781(b)	40903(d)
17781(c)	40311
17791(a)	71101

TABLE II—CONTINUED

<i>Title 42 Former Sections</i>	<i>Title 51 New Sections</i>
17791(b)	Elim.
17792	71101 note
17793 to 17795	71102 to 71104
17801	50111(b)
17811(a)	31502
17811(b), (c)	Elim.
17812(a)	31503
17812(b)	Elim.
17821(a)	71302 note
17821(b)	71302
17822	31302
17823	20305
17824	30305
17825(a), (b)	Elim.
17825(c)	60506
17826	Elim.
17827	30310
17828	31504
17829	31505

ENACTMENT OF TITLE

Pub. L. 111–314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3328, provided in part that: “Title 51, United States Code, ‘National and Commercial Space Programs’, is enacted as follows”.

PURPOSE; CONFORMITY WITH ORIGINAL INTENT

Pub. L. 111–314, § 2, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3328, provided that:

“(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act [see Tables for classification] is to codify certain existing laws related to national and commercial space programs as a positive law title of the United States Code.

“(b) CONFORMITY WITH ORIGINAL INTENT.—In the codification of laws by this Act, the intent is to conform to the understood policy, intent, and purpose of Congress in the original enactments, with such amendments and corrections as will remove ambiguities, contradictions, and other imperfections, in accordance with section 205(c)(1) of House Resolution No. 988, 93d Congress, as enacted into law by Public Law 93–554 (2 U.S.C. 285b(1)).”

TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS

Pub. L. 111–314, § 5, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3443, provided that:

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) SOURCE PROVISION.—The term ‘source provision’ means a provision of law that is replaced by a title 51 provision.

“(2) TITLE 51 PROVISION.—The term ‘title 51 provision’ means a provision of title 51, United States Code, that is enacted by section 3.

“(b) CUTOFF DATE.—The title 51 provisions replace certain provisions of law enacted on or before July 1, 2009. If a law enacted after that date amends or repeals a source provision, that law is deemed to amend or repeal, as the case may be, the corresponding title 51 provision. If a law enacted after that date is otherwise inconsistent with a title 51 provision or a provision of this Act [see Tables for classification], that law supersedes the title 51 provision or provision of this Act to the extent of the inconsistency.

“(c) ORIGINAL DATE OF ENACTMENT UNCHANGED.—For purposes of determining whether one provision of law supersedes another based on enactment later in time, a title 51 provision is deemed to have been enacted on the date of enactment of the corresponding source provision.

“(d) REFERENCES TO TITLE 51 PROVISIONS.—A reference to a title 51 provision is deemed to refer to the corresponding source provision.

“(e) REFERENCES TO SOURCE PROVISIONS.—A reference to a source provision, including a reference in a regulation, order, or other law, is deemed to refer to the corresponding title 51 provision.

“(f) REGULATIONS, ORDERS, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—A regulation, order, or other administrative action in effect under a source provision con-

tinues in effect under the corresponding title 51 provision.

“(g) ACTIONS TAKEN AND OFFENSES COMMITTED.—An action taken or an offense committed under a source provision is deemed to have been taken or committed under the corresponding title 51 provision.”

REPEALS

Pub. L. 111–314, § 6, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3444, repealed specified laws relating to national and commercial space programs, except with respect to rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before Dec. 18, 2010.

Subtitle I—General

CHAPTER 101—DEFINITIONS

Sec.

10101. Definitions.

§ 10101. Definitions

In this title:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(Pub. L. 111–314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3329.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
10101	(no source)	

Title-wide definitions for the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” are added for clarity and convenience.

SHORT TITLE OF 2017 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115–10, § 1(a), Mar. 21, 2017, 131 Stat. 18, provided that: “This Act [see Tables for classification] may be cited as the ‘National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2017’.”

Pub. L. 115–10, title IV, § 441, Mar. 21, 2017, 131 Stat. 44, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle D (§§ 441–443) of title IV of Pub. L. 115–10, enacting section 20149 of this title and provisions set out as notes under section 20149 of this title] may be cited as the ‘To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act’ or the ‘TREAT Astronauts Act’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2015 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 114–90, § 1(a), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 704, provided that: “This Act [enacting chapter 513 and sections 60126 and 70104 of this title, amending sections 20113, 50131, 50701, 50702, 50901, 50902, 50904 to 50908, 50914, 50915, 50919, 70101 to 70103, and 70907 of this title and sections 18351, 18353, and 18354 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 20113 and 50918 of this title] may be cited as the ‘U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act’.”

Pub. L. 114–90, title I, § 101, Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 705, provided that: “This title [enacting section 70104 of this title, amending sections 20113, 50131, 50901, 50902, 50904 to 50908, 50914, 50915, 50919, 70101 to 70103, and 70907 of this title and sections 18351, 18353, and 18354 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 20113 and 50918 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Spurring Private Aerospace Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship Act of 2015’ or ‘SPACE Act of 2015’.”

Pub. L. 114–90, title IV, § 401, Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 720, provided that: “This title [enacting chapter 513 of