

purpose of operating in, or placing a payload in, outer space.

(2) **PAYLOAD.**—The term “payload” means an object which a person undertakes to place in outer space by means of a launch vehicle, and includes subcomponents of the launch vehicle specifically designed or adapted for that object.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Commercial payloads may not be accepted for launch as primary payloads on the space launch system unless the Administrator determines that—

(1) the payload requires the unique capabilities of the space launch system; or

(2) launching of the payload on the space launch system is important for either national security or foreign policy purposes.

(Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3428; Pub. L. 114-90, title I, § 117(a)(4), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 718.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
70103(a)	42 U.S.C. 2465c.	Pub. L. 101-611, title II, § 203, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3206; Pub. L. 105-303, title II, § 203(2), Oct. 28, 1998, 112 Stat. 2855.
70103(b)	42 U.S.C. 2465f.	Pub. L. 101-611, title II, § 206, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3207; Pub. L. 105-303, title II, § 203(4), Oct. 28, 1998, 112 Stat. 2855.

In subsection (a), the words “this section” are substituted for “this title”, meaning title II of Public Law 101-611, because title II of Public Law 101-611 was previously repealed except for section 201 (a short title provision, classified to 42 U.S.C. 2451 note, in which neither defined term appears) and sections 203 (42 U.S.C. 2465c) and 206 (42 U.S.C. 2465f) of Public Law 101-611, which are restated in this section.

AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-90 substituted “space launch system” for “space shuttle” in section catchline and wherever appearing in text.

§ 70104. Definition of Space Launch System

In this chapter, the term “Space Launch System” means the Space Launch System authorized under section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).

(Added Pub. L. 114-90, title I, § 117(a)(5), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 718.)

[CHAPTER 703—REPEALED]

[[§ 70301 to 70304. Repealed. Pub. L. 115-10, title IV, § 416(b), Mar. 21, 2017, 131 Stat. 35]

Section 70301, Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3428, set out Congressional findings.

Section 70302, Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3429, related to purpose, policy, and goals of chapter.

Section 70303, Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3429, defined “additive cost”.

Section 70304, Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3429, related to duties of Administrator.

CHAPTER 705—EXPLORATION INITIATIVES

Sec.

70501. Space shuttle follow-on.

Sec.

- 70502. Exploration plan and programs.
- 70503. Ground-based analog capabilities.
- 70504. Stepping stone approach to exploration.
- 70505. Lunar outpost.
- 70506. Exploration technology research.
- 70507. Technology development.
- 70508. Robotic or human servicing of spacecraft.

§ 70501. Space shuttle follow-on

(a) **POLICY STATEMENT.**—In order to ensure continuous United States participation and leadership in the exploration and utilization of space and as an essential instrument of national security, it is the policy of the United States to maintain an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations—

(1) in low-Earth orbit; and

(2) beyond low-Earth orbit once the capabilities described in section 421(f) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2017 become available.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Administrator shall transmit an annual report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives describing the progress being made toward developing the Space Launch System and Orion and the estimated time before they will demonstrate crewed, orbital spaceflight.

(Pub. L. 111-314, § 3, Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3430; Pub. L. 115-10, title IV, § 417, Mar. 21, 2017, 131 Stat. 35.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
70501(a)	42 U.S.C. 16761(a).	Pub. L. 109-155, title V, § 501(a), (b), Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2927.
70501(b)	42 U.S.C. 16761(b).	

In subsection (b), the words “The Administrator shall transmit an annual report” are substituted for “Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [December 30, 2005] and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall transmit a report” to eliminate obsolete language.

In subsection (b), the words “Committee on Science and Technology” are substituted for “Committee on Science” on authority of Rule X(1)(o) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, adopted by House Resolution No. 6 (110th Congress, January 5, 2007).

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 421(f) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2017, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is section 421(f) of Pub. L. 115-10, which is set out as a note under section 20301 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2017—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-10, § 417(1), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “It is the policy of the United States to possess the capability for human access to space on a continuous basis.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115-10, § 417(2), substituted “Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives describing the progress being made toward developing the Space Launch System and Orion” for “Committee on Science