

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8689

To amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the authority of the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate commercial space transportation accidents, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 9, 2022

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. DEFazio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the authority of the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate commercial space transportation accidents, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Commercial Space  
5 Transportation Safety Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. GENERAL AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL TRANS-**  
2 **PORTATION SAFETY BOARD.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1131(a)(1) of title 49,  
4 United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (E) by striking “and” at  
6 the end;

7 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-  
8 paragraph (G); and

9 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(F) a commercial space transportation acci-  
12 dent in which there is—

13 “(i) a fatality or significant injury of any  
14 individual, regardless of whether the individual  
15 was on board the commercial launch vehicle at  
16 the time of the accident; or

17 “(ii) substantial damage to property that is  
18 not associated with commercial space launch ac-  
19 tivities and that is not located at the launch  
20 site; and”.

21 (b) OTHER INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES.—Section  
22 1131(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended  
23 by adding at the end the following:

24 “(D) The Board shall seek to enter into a memo-  
25 randum of agreement with any Government agency with  
26 the authority to certify a commercial space transportation

1 operation or investigate a commercial space transportation  
2 accident. Such memoranda shall delineate the conditions  
3 under and manner in which—

4 “(i) a commercial space transportation accident  
5 that may be investigated by the Board under sub-  
6 paragraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (1) will instead  
7 be investigated by the other Government agency; and  
8 “(ii) the Board will participate in such other  
9 Government agency’s investigation.

10 “(E) For an occurrence in commercial space trans-  
11 portation other than an accident described in paragraph  
12 (1)(F), the Board may only investigate such occurrence—

13 “(i) in accordance with the terms of a memo-  
14 randum of agreement with another Government  
15 agency described in subparagraph (D); or

16 “(ii) with the agreement of the Government  
17 agency responsible for investigating such occur-  
18 rence.”.

19 (c) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section  
20 1131(a)(2)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended  
21 by striking “or (F)” and inserting “(F), or (G)”.

22 (d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—None of the amendments  
23 made by subsection (a) or (b) shall be construed to limit  
24 the authority of the National Transportation Safety Board  
25 to investigate any other commercial space transportation

- 1 accident that, in the judgement of the Board, falls under
- 2 the authority of the Board under section 1131(a)(1)(G)
- 3 (as redesignated by this Act).

