

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 52

To allow the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a research center for deep space and interplanetary research, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Mr. BIGGS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To allow the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a research center for deep space and interplanetary research, 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 “Space Research Inno-  
5 vation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH CENTER FOR DEEP-SPACE AND INTER-**  
2 **PLANETARY RESEARCH.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Na-  
4 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration, using the  
5 authority under section 2304(c)(3)(B) of title 10, United  
6 States Code, shall—

7 (1) establish a university-affiliated research  
8 center to facilitate capabilities in support of the Na-  
9 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration;

10 (2) use such a university-affiliated research cen-  
11 ter to fund analyses and engineering support related  
12 to cis-lunar and deep-space missions and interplan-  
13 etary research; and

14 (3) ensure such a university-affiliated research  
15 center—

16 (A) is held accountable for the technical  
17 quality of the work product developed under  
18 this section; and

19 (B) has established expertise in convening  
20 academic and private sector groups to facilitate  
21 research and private-public partnerships.

22 (b) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Adminis-  
23 trator shall develop and implement policies and procedures  
24 to govern, with respect to the establishment of the univer-  
25 sity-affiliated research center under subsection (a)—

26 (1) the selection of participants;

1           (2) the award of cooperative agreements or  
2       other contracts;

3           (3) the appropriate use of competitive awards  
4       and sole source awards; and

5           (4) the technical capabilities required.

6       (c) ELIGIBILITY.—The following entities shall be eli-  
7       gible to participate in a university-affiliated research cen-  
8       ter established under subsection (a)—

9           (1) an institution of higher education (as de-  
10       fined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of  
11       1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

12          (2) an operator of a federally funded research  
13       and development center; and

14          (3) a nonprofit or not-for-profit research insti-  
15       tution.

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