

# S. 2

To appropriate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration necessary funds in order to hold a competition to create a robotic orbital probe program in order to later host a mission to the outer planets.

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## IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE

JULY 12th, 2021

Mr. FRANCIS, (for himself, Ms. KELLY, Congressperson  
COLLINS, Mr. COREY, Mr. WOOD, Ms. KIMBERLEE, Mr.  
SOLOMON, Mr. MILLER ) introduced the following bill to  
the Senate;

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## A BILL

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United  
States of America Assembled.*

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE**

(a) SHORT TITLE — This Act may be cited as the “NASA Outer Planets Competition Act”.

### **SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY**

(a) SEVERABILITY — Should any provision of this Act be deemed invalid or unconstitutional for any reason in a court with relevant jurisdiction, the

rest of the Act, and the application of the remaining provisions, shall not be affected.

### **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS**

- (a) For the purposes of this act the following shall mean as defined —
- (i) OUTER PLANETS — The planets of Neptune and Uranus.
  - (ii) NASA — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
  - (iii) PROBE — An orbital and unmanned spacecraft used for the collection of science around various bodies.
  - (iv) THE COMPETITION — The Outer Planet Probe Design Competition.
  - (v) CORPORATION — ‘Corporation’ shall be defined as it is in 15 U.S. Code §44.
  - (vi) DESIGN — A design for a probe for the Outer Planet Probe Design Competition.
  - (vii) REJECTED — Having not won The Competition.

### **SECTION 4. FINDINGS**

- (a) CONGRESS finds that —
- (i) The two outer planets have been unvisited since the Voyager Probes in the nineteen-eighties.
  - (ii) Transfer windows to Neptune and Uranus are up and coming all throughout the two-thousand-twenties.
  - (iii) With current budgetary surpluses, a new NASA probe mission is currently able to be funded.

### **SECTION 5. COMPETITION**

- (a) IN GENERAL —
- (i) NASA shall host a competition under the title of “Outer Planet Probe Design Competition”.
  - (ii) The Outer Planet Probe Design Competition shall end 1,095 calendar days after its beginning
  - (iii) After The Competition ends, under the circumstance NASA finds submissions good enough for their standards, they shall pick a winning design to build and later launch into space.
  - (iv) Prior to the competition beginning, the team running the competition shall meet in order to create guidelines and requirements in picking a winning design.

- (v) A probe design shall be rejected if the estimated funding requirement is over \$700,000,000.
- (vi) A probe design shall be rejected if it incorporates technology that is not yet available to NASA.
- (vii) A probe design shall be rejected if the main purpose of its mission is not to study one of the Outer Planets or their various moons.
- (viii) The winning design shall be decided within 6 months or 182 calendar days after the end of the competition.
- (ix) After picking a winning design, NASA shall be allowed to change it or manipulate it in any way in order to save funding or due to any logistical/practical needs.
- (x) Any persons, organization, or corporation shall be allowed to submit a design.

#### **SECTION 6. FUNDING**

- (a) FUNDING — NASA is authorized to be appropriated \$700,000,000 in order to host the competition, build, launch, and operate the winning design mission over the course of the mission.

#### **SECTION 7. ENACTMENT**

- (a) ENACTMENT — The provisions of this Act shall come into full force immediately upon signage.