

S.3

Requiring Satellite Owners to be Responsible for what is put into
Outer space.

IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE

JULY 12th, 2021

Mr. FRANCIS, (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. XANDER, Mr.
Ross) introduced the following bill to the Senate;

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 “Donald Kessler 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) SATELLITE — Any man-made object orbiting Earth.

- (ii) KESSLER SYNDROME — The idea that humanity shall have created so many man-made satellites, collisions shall happen often in orbit.
- (iii) ORBIT — The path of an object around any celestial body.
- (iv) GRAVEYARD ORBIT — An orbit of a defunct satellite away from operational satellites.
- (v) NASA — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- (vi) DEFUNCT — Any satellite that is non-operational or not in use.
- (vii) USE — A satellite being actively communicated with on Earth or being used for scientific purposes.
- (viii) CORPORATION — The term 'corporation' shall be defined as it is in 15 U.S. Code §44

SECTION 4. FINDINGS

- (a) CONGRESS finds that —
 - (i) An alarming amount of objects over 10 centimeters in diameter orbit the Earth.
 - (ii) Micro-Collisions could potentially be a large issue in the future for the operation of humans in Low-Earth-Orbit.
 - (iii) As more objects are sent into Low-Earth-Orbit by private corporations, space debris becomes a larger concern.
 - (iv) With Moon Colonization and manned Mars Missions becoming a thing within the next decade, humans will be polluting other worlds with Space Debris.

SECTION 5. PROVISIONS

- (a) IN GENERAL — Any persons or corporations who possess ownership over a Satellite shall be considered responsible for the following,
 - (i) Ensuring their satellites do not collide with other satellites.
 - (ii) Ensuring their satellites remain in a safe orbit to where they will not interfere with any goings of a manned mission.
 - (iii) Ensuring satellites that are no longer in use to be removed from Low-Earth-Orbit by one of the following
 - (1) Removal from Low-Earth-Orbit via de-orbiting into the atmosphere.
 - (2) Removal from Low-Earth-Orbit into a Graveyard or Junk Orbit.
 - (iv) Ensuring that satellites have a means of removing themselves from Low-Earth Orbit

- (v) All satellites launched before May 15th, 2021 shall be exempt from the provisions of this act.
- (vi) Any satellite that has some failure that disallows them from leaving Low-Earth-Orbit shall be exempt from this act.
- (vii) Corporations or persons are disallowed to purposely make parts fail that would disallow satellites from leaving Low-Earth Orbit.
- (viii) A National Aeronautics and Space Administration owned website, 'satellite.gov' shall be created for the purpose of satellite owners to register their satellite.
- (ix) Any individual or corporation that launches a satellite after May 31st 2021 shall be required to register their satellite on "satellite.gov".
- (x) 'satellite.gov' shall require users to give the following in order to register:
 - (1) Their full name,
 - (2) Satellite's Name,
 - (3) Rocket Corporation used to launch their Satellite,
 - (4) The following forms of contact: telephone number, mailing address, and birth certificate/driver's license/ any identification that can be proven as yourself.
 - (5) Satellite's estimated/intended Apogee and Perigee,
 - (6) Date of rocket launch.

SECTION 6. PROVISIONS RELATED TO CONSEQUENCE

- (a) Failure to register with 'satellite.gov' within 90 days of launch shall result in a civil penalty of no more than \$1,000.
- (b) Failure to comply with removing a satellite from Low-Earth-Orbit shall result in a civil penalty of no more than \$100,000 and/or a prison sentence of 6 months to one year.
- (c) Purposely building a satellite for parts to fail in order to not remove it from Low-Earth-Orbit shall result in
 - (i) Being charged with a Class-A Misdemeanor.
 - (ii) A civil penalty no more than \$100,000 is optional as it is a Class-A Misdemeanor.
 - (iii) Failure to pay civil penalty shall result in 6 months to 1 year in federal prison.

SECTION 7. FUNDING

- (a) IN GENERAL —

- (i) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall be appropriated \$200,000 in order to build and host 'satellite.gov'.
- (ii) The Department of Justice shall have the option to reappropriate up to \$1,000,000 yearly to carry out the provisions of this act that exclude any provisions of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's responsibilities.

SECTION 8. ENACTMENT

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