

The Space Development and Settlement Act of 2019

The Space Development and Settlement Act of 2019 is a piece of proposed legislation, based on the original Space Settlement Act by Congressman George Brown, and further refined by Congressman Dana Rohrabacher. Its goal is to add enabling space development and settlement to NASA's charter, to the Office of Commercial Space Transportation's charter, and to the Office of Space Commerce charter.

Attached is the formal draft text, as if it were to be submitted as a formal bill for consideration by the United States Congress.

The Act is included in the Alliance for Space Development's MarchStorm event, and its passage is the cornerstone of the Space Settlement Campaign, a joint project between the National Space Society and the Waypaver Foundation.

The Alliance for Space Development (ASD) is a group of 15 non-profit member organizations working together toward the goals of space development and settlement. Its members include The National Space Society, The Space Frontier Foundation, The Lifeboat Foundation, The Mars Foundation, The Mars Society, The Moon Society, The Space Development Foundation, The Space Development Steering Committee, Space for Humanity, Space Renaissance USA, the Space Tourism Society, Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS), Students on Capital Hill, Tea Party in Space, and the Waypaver Foundation.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS

- (a) Short Title – This Act may be cited as “The Space Development and Settlement Act of 2019.”
- (b) Table of Contents
 - Section 1: Short Title; Table of Contents
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SECTION 2: FINDINGS

The Congress finds that—

- (1) America’s activities in space have challenged mankind to travel beyond planet Earth and have provided us the opportunity to expand human knowledge, to extend the limits of human consciousness, and to improve the human condition;
- (2) Section 217(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 states, “The Congress declares that the extension of human life beyond Earth’s atmosphere, leading ultimately to the establishment of space settlements, will fulfill the purposes of advancing science, exploration, and development and will enhance the general welfare.”;
- (3) numerous independent commissions, chartered by Congress or established by the President, have declared space settlements as a long-range objective of the American space program;
- (4) exploring, developing, and settling new physical areas are parts of our heritage and will most assuredly be parts of our future;
- (5) United States space policy requires long-range goals and strategic direction in order to provide context for near-term space projects and programs;
- (6) increasing awareness of planetary-scale existential risks to human civilization and the survival of the species make it prudent to develop a means to diversify the human population beyond Earth;
- (7) the development of space will create new jobs, catalyze new industries, accelerate innovation and new technologies, and enable the United States to tap vast new resources

that will generate new wealth, enhance national security, and provide Americans with new and limitless opportunities;

(8) the establishment of space settlements will inspire generations of future Americans;

(9) the human settlement of space is fully consistent with the policies and objectives articulated in the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958;

(10) the adoption of a “pioneering” orientation by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is an essential step toward enabling the establishment of space settlements;

(11) the laws, regulations, and policies developed by different federal agencies could drastically affect the viability and growth of space settlements; and

(12) that incorporating American values such as freedom, democracy, liberty, and justice into space settlements will benefit humanity.

Section 3: Enabling Space Settlement as a National Goal

(a) DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE. —Section 20102 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h) as subsections (f) through (j), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND SETTLEMENT OF SPACE. —The Congress declares that expanding permanent human presence beyond Earth in a way that enables human settlement and enables a thriving space economy will enhance the general welfare of the United States.”

(3) in subsection (f), as so redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by inserting after paragraph (10) the following new paragraph:

“(11) The expansion of permanent human presence beyond Earth in a way that enables human settlement and enables a thriving space economy.”; and

(4) in subsection (j), as so redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “to (g)” and inserting in lieu thereof “to (i)”

(b) DEFINITIONS. —

(1) Section 20103 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

i. by inserting, in paragraph (1)(D), “and development” after “exploration”; and

ii. by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) SPACE SETTLEMENT. —The term ‘space settlement’ means a community in space or on a celestial body where inhabitants live on a permanent basis. Inhabitants engage in personal and commercial activity that enables growth over time, with the goal of becoming economically and biologically self-sustaining as a part of a larger network of space settlements.”

(2) Section 50902 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(26) SPACE SETTLEMENT. —The term ‘space settlement’ means a community in space or on a celestial body where inhabitants live on a permanent basis. Inhabitants engage in personal and commercial activity that enables growth over time, with the goal of becoming economically and biologically self-sustaining as a part of a larger network of space settlements.”

Section 4: Organizations involved in enabling Space Settlement

(a) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, AND SPACE SETTLEMENT. – Section 20102 of title 51, United States Code, as amended by Section 3 of this bill, is amended by adding the following after subsection (d):

“(e) ENABLING SPACE SETTLEMENTS. – The Administration shall encourage, facilitate, promote and support the development of permanent space settlements.”

(b) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND SPACE SETTLEMENT. – Section 50903 of title 51, United States Code, is amended-

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(D) ENABLING SPACE SETTLEMENT. -In carrying out the responsibilities under subsection (b), the Secretary shall encourage, facilitate, promote and support the development of space settlements.”

(c) OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE, AND SPACE SETTLEMENT. – Section 50702 of title 51, United States Code is amended by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) ENABLING SPACE SETTLEMENT. - In carrying out the responsibilities under subsection (c) and subsection (d), the Director shall encourage, facilitate, promote and support the development of space settlements.”

Section 5: Space Settlement Activities

(a) SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT INFORMATION.—Consistent with the national security interests of the United States, the Office of Science, Technology, and Policy shall, in close cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Transportation, the Office of Space Commerce, other appropriate agencies, the private sector, academia, and the international community,

obtain, produce, and provide information relating to all issues important for the development of a thriving space economy and the development and establishment of human space settlements.

Section 6: Review of National Space Policy As it May Relate to Space Settlement and A Thriving Space Economy

It is the sense of Congress that the President should conduct a review of national space policy to incorporate as a long-term goal of the human spaceflight and exploration program expanding human presence beyond Earth in a way that will enable human settlement and a thriving space economy.