

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 426

To encourage the development and integrated use by the public and private sectors of remote sensing and other geospatial information, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

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## A BILL

To encourage the development and integrated use by the public and private sectors of remote sensing and other geospatial information, 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 “Remote Sensing Appli-  
5 cations Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) although urban land use planning, growth  
9 management, and other functions of State, local, re-

1 regional, and tribal agencies are rightfully within their  
2 jurisdiction, the Federal Government can and should  
3 play an important role in the development and dem-  
4 onstration of innovative techniques to improve com-  
5 prehensive land use planning and growth manage-  
6 ment;

7 (2) the United States is making a major invest-  
8 ment in acquiring remote sensing and other  
9 geospatial information from both governmental and  
10 commercial sources;

11 (3) while much of the data is being acquired for  
12 scientific and national security purposes, it also can  
13 have important applications to help meet societal  
14 goals;

15 (4) it has already been demonstrated that  
16 Landsat data and other earth observation data can  
17 be of enormous assistance to Federal, State, local,  
18 regional, and tribal agencies for urban land use  
19 planning, coastal zone management, natural and cul-  
20 tural resource management, and disaster monitoring;

21 (5) remote sensing, coupled with the emergence  
22 of geographic information systems and satellite-  
23 based positioning information, offers the capability  
24 of developing important new applications of inte-

1       grated sets of geospatial information to address soci-  
2       etal needs;

3           (6) the full range of applications of remote  
4       sensing and other forms of geospatial information to  
5       meeting public sector requirements has not been  
6       adequately explored or exploited;

7           (7) the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of  
8       1992, Presidential Decision Directive 23 of 1994,  
9       and the Commercial Space Act of 1998 all support  
10      and promote the development of United States com-  
11      mercial remote sensing capabilities;

12          (8) many State, local, regional, tribal, and Fed-  
13      eral agencies are unaware of the utility of remote  
14      sensing and other geospatial information for meeting  
15      their needs, even when research has demonstrated  
16      the potential applications of that information;

17          (9) remote sensing and other geospatial infor-  
18      mation can be particularly useful to State, local, re-  
19      gional, and tribal agencies in the area of urban plan-  
20      ning, especially in their efforts to plan for and man-  
21      age the impacts of growth, development, and sprawl,  
22      as well as in environmental impact and disaster re-  
23      lief planning and management;

24          (10) the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
25      ministration, in coordination with other agencies,

1 can play a unique role in demonstrating how data  
2 acquired for scientific purposes, when combined with  
3 other data sources and processing capabilities, can  
4 be applied to assist State, local, regional, and tribal  
5 agencies and the private sector in decisionmaking in  
6 such areas as agriculture, weather forecasting, and  
7 forest management; and

8 (11) in addition, the National Aeronautics and  
9 Space Administration, in conjunction with other  
10 agencies, can play a unique role in stimulating the  
11 development of the remote sensing and other  
12 geospatial information sector through pilot projects  
13 to demonstrate the value of integrating govern-  
14 mental and commercial remote sensing data with ge-  
15 ographic information systems and satellite-based po-  
16 sitioning data to provide useful applications prod-  
17 ucts.

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act—

20 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-  
21 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space  
22 Administration;

23 (2) the term “geospatial information” means  
24 knowledge of the nature and distribution of physical  
25 and cultural features on the landscape based on

1 analysis of data from airborne or spaceborne plat-  
2 forms or other types and sources of data; and

3 (3) the term “institution of higher education”  
4 has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)  
5 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
6 1001(a)).

7 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROJECTS TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SECTOR**  
8 **APPLICATIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish  
10 a program of grants for competitively awarded pilot  
11 projects to explore the integrated use of sources of remote  
12 sensing and other geospatial information to address State,  
13 local, regional, and tribal agency needs.

14 (b) PREFERRED PROJECTS.—In awarding grants  
15 under this section, the Administrator shall give preference  
16 to projects that—

17 (1) make use of existing public or commercial  
18 data sets;

19 (2) integrate multiple sources of geospatial in-  
20 formation, such as geographic information system  
21 data, satellite-provided positioning data, and re-  
22 motely sensed data, in innovative ways;

23 (3) include funds or in-kind contributions from  
24 non-Federal sources;

1           (4) involve the participation of commercial enti-  
2           ties that process raw or lightly processed data, often  
3           merging that data with other geospatial information,  
4           to create data products that have significant value  
5           added to the original data; and

6           (5) taken together demonstrate as diverse a set  
7           of public sector applications as possible.

8           (c) OPPORTUNITIES.—In carrying out this section,  
9           the Administrator shall seek opportunities to assist—

10           (1) in the development of commercial applica-  
11           tions potentially available from the remote sensing  
12           industry; and

13           (2) State, local, regional, and tribal agencies in  
14           applying remote sensing and other geospatial infor-  
15           mation technologies for growth management.

16           (d) DURATION.—Assistance for a pilot project under  
17           subsection (a) shall be provided for a period not to exceed  
18           3 years.

19           (e) REPORT.—Each recipient of a grant under sub-  
20           section (a) shall transmit a report to the Administrator  
21           on the results of the pilot project within 180 days of the  
22           completion of that project.

23           (f) WORKSHOP.—Each recipient of a grant under  
24           subsection (a) shall, not later than 180 days after the com-  
25           pletion of the pilot project, conduct at least one workshop

1 for potential users to disseminate the lessons learned from  
2 the pilot project as widely as feasible.

3 (g) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall issue  
4 regulations establishing application, selection, and imple-  
5 mentation procedures for pilot projects, and guidelines for  
6 reports and workshops required by this section.

7 **SEC. 5. PROGRAM EVALUATION.**

8 (a) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Administrator  
9 shall establish an advisory committee, consisting of indi-  
10 viduals with appropriate expertise in State, local, regional,  
11 and tribal agencies, the university research community,  
12 and the remote sensing and other geospatial information  
13 industry, to monitor the program established under sec-  
14 tion 4. The advisory committee shall consult with the Fed-  
15 eral Geographic Data Committee and other appropriate  
16 industry representatives and organizations. Notwith-  
17 standing section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee  
18 Act, the advisory committee established under this sub-  
19 section shall remain in effect until the termination of the  
20 program under section 4.

21 (b) EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION.—Not later than  
22 December 31, 2009, the Administrator shall transmit to  
23 the Congress an evaluation of the effectiveness of the pro-  
24 gram established under section 4 in exploring and pro-  
25 moting the integrated use of sources of remote sensing

1 and other geospatial information to address State, local,  
2 regional, and tribal agency needs. Such evaluation shall  
3 have been conducted by an independent entity.

4 **SEC. 6. DATA AVAILABILITY.**

5 The Administrator shall ensure that the results of  
6 each of the pilot projects completed under section 4 shall  
7 be retrievable through an electronic, Internet-accessible  
8 database.

9 **SEC. 7. EDUCATION.**

10 The Administrator shall establish an educational out-  
11 reach program to increase awareness at institutions of  
12 higher education and State, local, regional, and tribal  
13 agencies of the potential applications of remote sensing  
14 and other geospatial information.

15 **SEC. 8. COST SENSITIVITY STUDY.**

16 The Administrator shall conduct a study of the effect  
17 of remote sensing imagery costs on potential State, local,  
18 regional, and tribal agency applications. The study shall  
19 identify applications that are likely to be most affected by  
20 reductions in the cost of remote sensing imagery. Not later  
21 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
22 the Administrator shall transmit to the Congress the re-  
23 sults of the study conducted under this section.

1 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-  
3 ministrator \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006  
4 through 2010 to carry out this Act.

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