

**By** the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; and Senators Wright and Farmer

583-02311-21

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2                   An act relating to recovery of spaceflight assets;  
3                   creating s. 331.502, F.S.; defining terms; providing  
4                   that a spaceflight entity retains ownership of a  
5                   spaceflight asset after launch or upon reentry;  
6                   requiring a person who finds an item reasonably  
7                   identifiable as a spaceflight asset to report the  
8                   description and location of the asset to law  
9                   enforcement; requiring a law enforcement agency to  
10                  make reasonable efforts to identify and notify the  
11                  owner of a spaceflight asset; authorizing the owner of  
12                  a spaceflight asset to enter private property under  
13                  specified circumstances; prohibiting a person from  
14                  appropriating a spaceflight asset to his or her own  
15                  use or refusing to surrender a spaceflight asset to  
16                  law enforcement or the owner; providing criminal  
17                  penalties; amending s. 331.501, F.S.; updating  
18                  references to federal provisions; providing an  
19                  effective date.

20  
21                  Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
23                  Section 1. Section 331.502, Florida Statutes, is created to  
24                  read:

25                  331.502 Recovery of spaceflight assets.—

26                  (1) As used in this section, the term:

27                  (a) "Launch" has the same meaning as provided in 51 U.S.C.

28                  50902.

29                  (b) "Law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as

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30       provided in s. 908.102.

31       (c) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as  
32       provided in s. 943.10.

33       (d) "Reentry" has the same meaning as provided in 51 U.S.C.  
34       50902.

35       (e) "Spaceflight activities" and "spaceflight entity" have  
36       the same meanings as provided in s. 331.501(1).

37       (f) "Spaceflight asset" means any item, or any part of an  
38       item, owned by a spaceflight entity which is used in spaceflight  
39       activities, including crewed and uncrewed capsules, launch  
40       vehicles, parachutes and other landing aids, and any ancillary  
41       equipment that was attached to the launch vehicle during launch,  
42       orbit, or reentry.

43       (2) A spaceflight entity retains ownership over a  
44       spaceflight asset following a launch or reentry, regardless of  
45       the physical condition or location of a spaceflight asset,  
46       unless or until such time the spaceflight entity expressly  
47       indicates its intent to abandon the asset.

48       (3) (a) A person who locates any item reasonably  
49       identifiable as a spaceflight asset must report the description  
50       and location of the spaceflight asset to a law enforcement  
51       agency having jurisdiction over the location.

52       (b) A law enforcement agency that receives a report under  
53       this subsection must make a reasonable effort to identify the  
54       owner of the spaceflight asset and promptly notify the owner of  
55       any information relevant to the recovery of the spaceflight  
56       asset.

57       (4) The owner of a spaceflight asset may enter private  
58       property to recover a spaceflight asset if a law enforcement

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59       officer authorizes such entry after determining that exigent  
60       circumstances exist. Exigent circumstances may include, but are  
61       not limited to, a determination that a failure to timely recover  
62       the spaceflight asset may result in an immediate danger to  
63       public safety or damage to, or destruction of, the spaceflight  
64       asset.

65       (5) A person may not knowingly appropriate an item  
66       reasonably identifiable as a spaceflight asset to his or her own  
67       use, or to the use of any other person not entitled to the  
68       spaceflight asset, or refuse to surrender a spaceflight asset to  
69       a law enforcement officer or the owner upon demand. A person who  
70       violates this subsection commits misappropriation of a  
71       spaceflight asset, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable  
72       as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. A court shall order any  
73       person convicted of violating this subsection to pay restitution  
74       to the owner of the spaceflight asset if, as a result of the  
75       misappropriation of a spaceflight asset, the asset is damaged or  
76       cannot be recovered.

77       Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of  
78       section 331.501, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

79       331.501 Spaceflight; informed consent.—

80       (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

81       (a) "Participant" means any spaceflight participant as that  
82       term is defined in 51 U.S.C. s. 50902 ~~49 U.S.C. s. 70102~~.

83       (b) "Spaceflight activities" means launch services or  
84       reentry services as those terms are defined in 51 U.S.C. s.  
85       50902 ~~49 U.S.C. s. 70102~~.

86       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.