

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7273
OFFERED BY MRS. MCCLAIN DELANEY OF
MARYLAND

At the end of title VIII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 8 ____ . NASA CENTERS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the activities of
3 NASA, the Administrator shall maintain a portfolio of
4 Government-owned and -operated field centers, facilities,
5 and related infrastructure that cultivate the core aero-
6 nautical and space capabilities and capacities of the Fed-
7 eral Government and are staffed by a multidisciplinary
8 and skilled civil servant workforce, and as appropriate,
9 supported by a contractor workforce, that provides tech-
10 nical and business operations services, and continue to
11 sustain such centers in accordance with section 31502 of
12 title 51, United States Code.

13 (b) CENTER COUNCILS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may es-
15 tablish a council at each of the nine field centers re-
16 ferred to in subsection (a) that are composed of not
17 less than ten, but not more than fifteen, members
18 appointed from officers or employees of NASA by

1 the respective directors for such centers, for terms
2 of four years.

3 (2) MEMBERS.—In appointing members under
4 paragraph (1), each director referred to in such
5 paragraph shall carry out the following:

6 (A) Seek to adequately represent the orga-
7 nization of the center at issue, including, as ap-
8 plicable and to the greatest extent practicable,
9 all sites and organizational divisions of such
10 center.

11 (B) Appoint not more than four such
12 members who are managers or are from the
13 Senior Executive Service.

14 (3) CHAIRPERSON.—Each council established
15 under paragraph (1) shall select a chairperson from
16 among the members of such council.

17 (4) COORDINATION.—Each council established
18 under paragraph (1) shall coordinate with other ad-
19 visory, employee, and management committees or
20 councils, as relevant and appropriate.

21 (5) MEETINGS.—Each council established
22 under paragraph (1) shall convene, in person or by
23 electronic means, not less than four times each year,
24 and otherwise, as such council determines appro-
25 priate.

1 (6) DUTIES.—Each council established under
2 paragraph (1) shall carry out the following:

3 (A) Receive regular communications from
4 the leadership of the center at issue and review
5 tactical and strategic plans and activities re-
6 garding such center.

7 (B) Advise the director of such center on
8 the following with respect to such center:

9 (i) Facilities, maintenance, and infra-
10 structure needs, concerns, and planning ac-
11 tivities.

12 (ii) Master plan development, revision,
13 and implementation.

14 (iii) Technical and scientific capabili-
15 ties and capacities.

16 (iv) Core competencies and roles and
17 responsibilities identified in accordance
18 with this section.

19 (v) Any other matter at the request of
20 the director.

21 (7) REPORTING.—

22 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60
23 days after the date of the enactment of this
24 Act, each director of a center referred to in sub-
25 section (a) shall submit to the appropriate com-

1 mittees of Congress a report that includes in-
2 formation relating to the charters, membership,
3 and relevant terms of reference for the council
4 established under paragraph (1) with respect to
5 the director, if applicable.

6 (B) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one
7 year after the date of the enactment of this Act
8 and annually thereafter, each council estab-
9 lished under paragraph (1) shall submit to the
10 Administrator, the director of the center at
11 issue, and the appropriate committees of Con-
12 gress a report on the following:

13 (i) The findings and recommendations
14 of such council developed pursuant to this
15 subsection.

16 (ii) The extent to which such council
17 determines the director has responded to
18 such recommendations.

19 (c) CENTER-BASED IRAD.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
21 carry out the following:

22 (A) Establish new, or expand existing, in-
23 ternal research and development (IRAD) pro-
24 grams at each of the centers referred to in sub-
25 section (a) to advance early-stage, future mis-

1 sion-critical technologies that are not commer-
2 cially available and prioritize dedicated re-
3 sources.

4 (B) Request increases for such resources
5 each subsequent year for such programs, con-
6 sistent with the findings and recommendations
7 of the 2024 consensus study report of the Na-
8 tional Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and
9 Medicine entitled “NASA at a Crossroads:
10 Maintaining Workforce, Infrastructure, and
11 Technology Preeminence in the Coming Dec-
12 ades”.

13 (2) PILOT PROGRAM.—In carrying out para-
14 graph (1), the Administrator shall establish a pilot
15 program at the Goddard Space Flight Center to de-
16 velop guidance related to policies, procedures, and
17 best practices for IRAD programs at the Center, to
18 be shared with other NASA centers and incor-
19 porated as part of the internal research and develop-
20 ment of such other centers, as appropriate.

21 (3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
23 shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress
24 on the following:

1 (A) The pilot program under paragraph
2 (2).

3 (B) The progress of NASA in developing
4 IRAD programs in accordance with such para-
5 graph at NASA centers other than Goddard
6 Space Flight Center.

7 (4) ANNUAL REPORT.—For the budget submis-
8 sion for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year there-
9 after, the Administrator shall include in the annual
10 budget request for NASA the actual, current, and
11 proposed funding level, and estimated budgets for
12 the five subsequent fiscal years, by center referred to
13 in subsection (a), with respect to IRAD programs,
14 and an explanation of such programs.

