

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4544

To provide for a Near-Earth Object Survey program to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize certain near-earth asteroids and comets.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2004

Mr. ROHRABACHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

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## A BILL

To provide for a Near-Earth Object Survey program to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize certain near-earth asteroids and comets.

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 “George E. Brown, Jr.  
5 Near-Earth Object Survey Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Near-Earth objects pose a serious and cred-  
9 ible threat to humankind, as scientists are certain  
10 that a major asteroid or comet was responsible for

1 the mass extinction of the majority of the Earth's  
2 species, including the dinosaurs, nearly 65,000,000  
3 years ago.

4 (2) Similar objects have struck the Earth or  
5 passed through the Earth's atmosphere several times  
6 in the Earth's history and pose a similar threat in  
7 the future.

8 (3) Several such near-Earth objects have only  
9 been discovered within days of the objects' closest  
10 approach to Earth, and recent discoveries of such  
11 large objects indicate that many large near-Earth  
12 objects remain undiscovered.

13 (4) The efforts taken to date by the National  
14 Aeronautics and Space Administration for detecting  
15 and characterizing the hazards of Earth orbit-cross-  
16 ing asteroids and comets are not sufficient to the  
17 threat posed by such objects to cause widespread de-  
18 struction and loss of life.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION.**

20 For purposes of this Act, the term "Administrator"  
21 means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and  
22 Space Administration.

23 **SEC. 4. NEAR-EARTH OBJECT SURVEY.**

24 (a) SURVEY PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall  
25 plan, develop, and implement a Near-Earth Object Survey

1 program to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize the  
2 physical characteristics of near-Earth asteroids and com-  
3 ets equal to or greater than 100 meters in diameter in  
4 order to assess the threat of such near-Earth objects in  
5 striking the Earth.

6 (b) AMENDMENTS.—Section 102 of the National Aer-  
7 onautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451) is  
8 amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
10 section (h);

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
12 lowing new subsection:

13 “(g) The Congress declares that the general welfare  
14 and security of the United States require that the unique  
15 competence of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
16 ministration in science and engineering systems be di-  
17 rected to detecting, tracking, cataloguing, and character-  
18 izing near-Earth asteroids and comets in order to provide  
19 warning and mitigation of the potential hazard of such  
20 near-Earth objects impacting the Earth.”; and

21 (3) in subsection (h), as so redesignated by  
22 paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “and  
23 (f)” and inserting “(f), and (g)”.

24 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall  
25 transmit to the Congress, not later than February 28 of

1 each of the next 5 years beginning after the date of enact-  
2 ment of this Act, a report that provides the following:

3 (1) A summary of all activities taken pursuant  
4 to subsection (a) for the previous fiscal year.

5 (2) A summary of expenditures for all activities  
6 pursuant to subsection (a) for the previous fiscal  
7 year.

8 (3) A detailed plan and budget request for all  
9 activities pursuant to subsection (a) for the next five  
10 fiscal years from the year that the annual report is  
11 submitted.

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
13 are authorized to be appropriated to the National Aero-  
14 nautics and Space Administration for the Near-Earth Ob-  
15 ject Survey program described in subsection (a)  
16 \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 and 2006.  
17 Amounts appropriated under this subsection shall remain  
18 available for 2 fiscal years.

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