

Union Calendar No. 240

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 912

[Report No. 108-418]

To authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish an awards program in honor of Charles “Pete” Conrad, astronaut and space scientist, for recognizing the discoveries made by amateur astronomers of asteroids with near-Earth orbit trajectories.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2003

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2004

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 25, 2003]

A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish an awards program in honor of Charles “Pete” Conrad, astronaut and space scientist, for recognizing the discoveries made by amateur astronomers of asteroids with near-Earth orbit trajectories.

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 “Charles ‘Pete’ Conrad*
5 *Astronomy Awards Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *For the purposes of this Act—*

8 (1) *the term “Administrator” means the Admin-*
9 *istrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-*
10 *ministration;*

11 (2) *the term “amateur astronomer” means an*
12 *individual whose employer does not provide any*
13 *funding, payment, or compensation to the individual*
14 *for the observation of asteroids and other celestial bod-*
15 *ies, and does not include any individual employed as*
16 *a professional astronomer;*

17 (3) *the term “Minor Planet Center” means the*
18 *Minor Planet Center of the Smithsonian Astro-*
19 *physical Observatory;*

20 (4) *the term “near-Earth asteroid” means an as-*
21 *teroid with a perihelion distance of less than 1.3 As-*
22 *tronomical Units from the Sun; and*

23 (5) *the term “Program” means the Charles*
24 *“Pete” Conrad Astronomy Awards Program estab-*
25 *lished under section 3.*

1 **SEC. 3. PETE CONRAD ASTRONOMY AWARD PROGRAM.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator shall establish*
3 *the Charles “Pete” Conrad Astronomy Awards Program.*

4 (b) *AWARDS.*—*The Administrator shall make awards*
5 *under the Program based on the recommendations of the*
6 *Minor Planet Center.*

7 (c) *AWARD CATEGORIES.*—*The Administrator shall*
8 *make one annual award, unless there are no eligible discov-*
9 *eries or contributions, for each of the following categories:*

10 (1) *The amateur astronomer or group of amateur*
11 *astronomers who in the preceding calendar year dis-*
12 *covered the intrinsically brightest near-Earth asteroid*
13 *among the near-Earth asteroids that were discovered*
14 *during that year by amateur astronomers or groups*
15 *of amateur astronomers.*

16 (2) *The amateur astronomer or group of amateur*
17 *astronomers who made the greatest contribution to the*
18 *Minor Planet Center’s mission of cataloguing near-*
19 *Earth asteroids during the preceding year.*

20 (d) *AWARD AMOUNT.*—*An award under the Program*
21 *shall be in the amount of \$3,000.*

22 (e) *GUIDELINES.*—(1) *No individual who is not a cit-*
23 *izen or permanent resident of the United States at the time*
24 *of his discovery or contribution may receive an award*
25 *under this Act.*

1 (2) *The decisions of the Administrator in making*
2 *awards under this Act are final.*

3 (f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—From*
4 *sums otherwise authorized to be appropriated, there are au-*
5 *thorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary*
6 *to carry out this Act.*

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