

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to recovery of space vehicles;
3 creating s. 331.502, F.S.; providing definitions;
4 requiring a person who finds a space vehicle to report
5 its description and location to a law enforcement
6 officer; prohibiting such a person from appropriating
7 the vehicle to his or her own use or refusing to
8 deliver the vehicle to law enforcement or the
9 spaceflight entity that owns the vehicle; providing
10 penalties; providing powers and duties of a law
11 enforcement officer who ascertains that a person has
12 wrongfully appropriated or withheld a space vehicle or
13 that a space vehicle is present on public property;
14 providing penalties for a person who opposes,
15 obstructs, or resists a law enforcement officer under
16 certain circumstances; providing immunity from
17 prosecution for a law enforcement officer for certain
18 actions; requiring the spaceflight entity that owns a
19 recovered space vehicle to reimburse a law enforcement
20 agency for certain costs; amending s. 331.501, F.S.;
21 updating references to federal provisions; providing
22 an effective date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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26 Section 1. Section 331.502, Florida Statutes, is created
 27 to read:

28 331.502 Recovery of space vehicles.-

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

30 (a) "Space vehicle" means any item, or any part of an
 31 item, owned by a spaceflight entity which is used in launch
 32 services or reentry services, including crewed and uncrewed
 33 capsules, launch vehicles, parachutes and other landing aids,
 34 and any ancillary equipment that was attached to the launch
 35 vehicle during launch, orbit, or reentry.

36 (b) "Spaceflight entity," "launch services," and "reentry
 37 services" have the same meanings as provided in s. 331.501(1).

38 (2) A person who finds a space vehicle must report the
 39 description and location of the space vehicle to a law
 40 enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10(1).

41 (3) A person who finds a space vehicle may not appropriate
 42 the space vehicle to his or her own use or refuse to deliver the
 43 space vehicle, when required, to law enforcement or to the
 44 spaceflight entity that owns the space vehicle. A person who
 45 violates this subsection commits theft as defined in s. 812.014,
 46 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

47 (4) A law enforcement officer who ascertains that a person
 48 has wrongfully appropriated or withheld a space vehicle under
 49 this section may demand that the person surrender the space
 50 vehicle to the law enforcement officer. The law enforcement

51 officer shall keep the space vehicle in custody until it can be
52 transferred to the spaceflight entity that owns the space
53 vehicle. The law enforcement officer must make a reasonable
54 attempt to ascertain and notify the rightful owner.

55 (5) A law enforcement officer who ascertains that a space
56 vehicle is present on public property may take the space vehicle
57 into custody. The law enforcement officer shall keep the space
58 vehicle in custody until it can be transferred to the
59 spaceflight entity that owns the space vehicle. The law
60 enforcement officer must make a reasonable attempt to ascertain
61 and notify the rightful owner.

62 (6) A person who opposes, obstructs, or resists a law
63 enforcement officer or a person authorized by the law
64 enforcement officer in the discharge of his or her duties as
65 provided in this section commits a misdemeanor of the second
66 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

67 (7) A law enforcement officer or a person authorized by
68 the law enforcement officer is immune from civil or criminal
69 prosecution for reasonable, good faith trespass upon real
70 property while in the discharge of his or her duties as provided
71 in this section.

72 (8) The spaceflight entity that owns a recovered space
73 vehicle must reimburse a law enforcement agency for costs
74 incurred by the law enforcement agency for transportation and
75 storage of the recovered space vehicle.

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

78 331.501 Spaceflight; informed consent.—

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

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

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

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