

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 165

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ELLEN J. PARK

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Quijano

SYNOPSIS

Respectfully urges Congress and President to increase funding for National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/23/2023)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Congress and the President
2 to increase funding for the National Aeronautics and Space
3 Administration in the federal budget.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration
6 (NASA), established in 1958 to expand “human knowledge of
7 phenomena in the atmosphere and space,” is a federal agency that
8 invests in innovative activities that create jobs, jumpstart
9 businesses, and grow the economy; and
10 **WHEREAS**, As part of its overall mission, NASA seeks to improve
11 aeronautical and space vehicles capable of carrying living
12 organisms, equipment, supplies, and instruments by studying and
13 recognizing the interconnectedness of varied sciences; and
14 **WHEREAS**, The onset of the Space Race underscored the significance
15 of NASA, as the agency’s initial space and lunar expeditions
16 captivated the psyche of the nation and catapulted the United States
17 to the forefront of the scientific-technological revolution; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Another NASA innovation, known as the James Webb
19 Space Telescope, has enabled humanity to see deep into the outer
20 limits of space, reigniting the nation’s hunger for exploration; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Today, NASA research and development projects tend to
22 result in spinoff technologies in common use, including solar
23 panels, medical imaging and dental x-ray devices, cell phone
24 cameras, cordless vacuums, memory foam, and stronger tire
25 material; and
26 **WHEREAS**, It is clear that there is an increased interest and demand in
27 space craft, space flight, and satellite technology from the private
28 sector, and increased funding for public-private partnerships could
29 lead to further innovations that bring economic growth to New
30 Jersey and the country as a whole; and
31 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey seeks to foster the next generation’s expertise
32 in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by
33 capitalizing on awe-inspiring NASA missions to demonstrate real-
34 life applications of what is taught in the classroom; and
35 **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic heightened the urgency for
36 funding STEM education and career training as an investment in
37 future health and prosperity, both short-term and long-term; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Climate uncertainty and extreme weather events heighten
39 the necessity for investing in endeavors that lead to pioneering
40 solutions to help humanity adapt with the planet we live on; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Despite the value that NASA continues to present to the
42 American people and the economy, NASA’s annual funding
43 adjusted for inflation peaked in 1966 at \$49 billion, in 2021 dollars,
44 and has stagnated since 2000 at roughly \$22 billion, in 2021
45 dollars; and
46 **WHEREAS**, President Biden’s proposed federal fiscal year (FY) 2023
47 funding for NASA will raise the agency’s budget to \$26 billion, an
48 eight percent increase over FY2022’s \$24 billion budget; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, Increasing the administration's budget will lead to
2 scientific and technological innovations that will create jobs,
3 jumpstart businesses, grow the economy, and expand human
4 understanding of our planet and universe; now, therefore,

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
7 *Jersey:*

9 1. This House respectfully urges the Congress and the
10 President to increase funding for the National Aeronautics and
11 Space Administration in the federal budget.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the United States Congress elected from this State, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

STATEMENT

25 This resolution respectfully urges the Congress and the President
26 to increase funding for the National Aeronautics and Space
27 Administration in the federal budget.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration was established in 1958 ahead of the international Space Race with the edict of expanding human knowledge of space and the atmosphere. Beyond the early, successful satellite launches and lunar missions, NASA funded projects routinely proved fruitful in the form of worthwhile spinoff technologies, innovative public-private cooperative ventures, and advancement of human understanding of our universe and the sciences that govern it. The COVID-19 pandemic and recent extreme weather events highlight the need for continued funding in the sciences and technology to train the next generation's STEM workers to solve the problems of today and tomorrow. Shuttle launches and deep space telescopes draw the public's attention well, but NASA's return on investment continues to be the important scientific leaps that federal funding enables.

Increasing funding for NASA in the federal budget will allow the administration to invest in grander and more sweeping initiatives and missions, returning New Jersey and the United States to the forefront of the scientific, technological, and digital revolutions.