



## H.CON.RES. 375 – TO HONOR THE GOAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 375 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) on June 20, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 375 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 9, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 375 resolves that Congress:

- Honors the goal of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) to celebrate astronomical discoveries;
- Encourages the public to participate in IYA celebrations and activities and discover more about the Universe and the science of astronomy; and
- Applauds the efforts of the employees, centers, and laboratories of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation in promoting public understanding of the astronomical sciences during the celebration of the International Year of Astronomy.

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### BACKGROUND

The United Nations and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have designated 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy. 2009 will represent the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Galileo Galelei using the telescope for astronomical purposes in 1609. According to UNESCO, the mission of the International Year of Astronomy is to increase scientific awareness, empower astronomical communities in developing countries, and improve the gender-balanced representation of scientists at all levels, among other purposes.

Astronomy, the study of celestial objects and phenomena, is one of the oldest basic sciences. In the United States, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the primary agency responsible for space exploration and scientific research. The National Science Foundation, another federal agency, also supports research and education efforts in the field of astronomy.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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