

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2058

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## AN ACT

To require the Secretary of Commerce to study the coverage gaps of the Next Generation Weather Radar of the National Weather Service and to develop a plan for improving radar coverage and hazardous weather detection and forecasting.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. STUDY ON GAPS IN NEXRAD COVERAGE AND**  
2 **REQUIREMENT FOR PLAN TO ADDRESS SUCH**  
3 **GAPS.**

4 (a) **STUDY ON GAPS IN NEXRAD COVERAGE.—**

5 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Not later than 90 days after  
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
7 of Commerce shall complete a study on gaps in the  
8 coverage of the Next Generation Weather Radar of  
9 the National Weather Service (referred to in this  
10 section as “NEXRAD”).

11 (2) **ELEMENTS.—**In conducting the study re-  
12 quired under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

13 (A) identify areas in the United States  
14 with limited or no NEXRAD coverage below  
15 6,000 feet above ground level of the sur-  
16 rounding terrain;

17 (B) for the areas identified under subpara-  
18 graph (A)—

19 (i) identify the key weather effects for  
20 which prediction would improve with im-  
21 proved radar detection;

22 (ii) identify additional sources of ob-  
23 servations for high impact weather that  
24 were available and operational for such  
25 areas on the day before the date of the en-  
26 actment of this Act, including Terminal

1 Doppler Weather Radar (commonly known  
2 as “TDWR”), air surveillance radars of  
3 the Federal Aviation Administration, and  
4 cooperative network observers; and

5 (iii) assess the feasibility and advis-  
6 ability of efforts to integrate and upgrade  
7 Federal radar capabilities that are not  
8 owned or controlled by the National Oce-  
9 anic and Atmospheric Administration, in-  
10 cluding radar capabilities of the Federal  
11 Aviation Administration and the Depart-  
12 ment of Defense;

13 (C) assess the feasibility and advisability of  
14 incorporating State-operated and other non-  
15 Federal radars into the operations of the Na-  
16 tional Weather Service;

17 (D) identify options to improve radar cov-  
18 erage in the areas identified under subpara-  
19 graph (A); and

20 (E) estimate the cost of, and develop a  
21 timeline for, carrying out each of the options  
22 identified under subparagraph (D).

23 (3) REPORT.—Upon the completion of the  
24 study required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
25 shall submit a report to the Committee on Com-

1 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate,  
2 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the  
3 Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the  
4 House of Representatives, and the Committee on  
5 Appropriations of the House of Representatives that  
6 includes the findings of the Secretary with respect to  
7 the study.

8 (b) PLAN TO IMPROVE RADAR COVERAGE.—Not  
9 later than 30 days after the completion of the study under  
10 subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Commerce shall submit  
11 a plan to the congressional committees referred to in sub-  
12 section (a)(3) for improving radar coverage in the areas  
13 identified under subsection (a)(2)(A) by integrating and  
14 upgrading, to the extent practicable, additional observa-  
15 tion solutions to improve hazardous weather detection and  
16 forecasting.

17 (c) REQUIREMENT FOR THIRD-PARTY REVIEWS RE-  
18 GARDING PLAN TO IMPROVE RADAR COVERAGE.—The  
19 Secretary of Commerce shall seek third-party reviews on  
20 scientific methodology relating to, and the feasibility and  
21 advisability of, implementing the plan submitted under  
22 subsection (b), including the extent to which warning and

- 1 forecast services of the National Weather Service would
- 2 be improved by additional NEXRAD coverage.

Passed the Senate December 1, 2016.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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