

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 161

To improve hurricane forecasting and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 17, 2017

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To improve hurricane forecasting and for other purposes.

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 “Hurricane Forecast
5 Improvement Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. HURRICANE FORECAST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Com-
8 merce for Oceans and Atmosphere, in collaboration with
9 the United States weather industry and such academic en-
10 tities as the Administrator of the National Oceanic and

1 Atmospheric Administration considers appropriate, shall
2 maintain a project to improve hurricane forecasting.

3 (b) GOAL.—The goal of the project maintained under
4 subsection (a) shall be to develop and extend accurate hur-
5 ricane forecasts and warnings in order to reduce loss of
6 life, injury, and damage to the economy, with a focus on—

7 (1) improving the prediction of rapid inten-
8 sification and track of hurricanes;

9 (2) improving the forecast and communication
10 of storm surges from hurricanes; and

11 (3) incorporating risk communication research
12 to create more effective watch and warning products.

13 (c) PROJECT PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary
15 of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, acting through
16 the Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric
17 Research and in consultation with the Director of the Na-
18 tional Weather Service, shall develop a plan for the project
19 maintained under subsection (a) that details the specific
20 research, development, and technology transfer activities,
21 as well as corresponding resources and timelines, nec-
22 essary to achieve the goal set forth in subsection (b).

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