

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1414

AN ACT

To improve the instant messaging service used by the
National Weather Service, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Weather
3 Service Communications Improvement Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Weather Research
6 and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8541
7 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 415. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICA-**
9 **TIONS.**

10 “(a) IMPROVEMENT OF INSTANT MESSAGING SERV-
11 ICE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Na-
13 tional Weather Service shall improve the instant
14 messaging service used by personnel of the National
15 Weather Service by implementing by October 1,
16 2027, a commercial off-the-shelf communications so-
17 lution that replaces the instant messaging service
18 commonly referred to as ‘NWSChat’.

19 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The communications so-
20 lution implemented under paragraph (1) shall—

21 “(A) be hosted on the public cloud; and

22 “(B) satisfy requirements set forth by the
23 Director to ensure that the solution—

24 “(i) best accommodates future growth;

25 “(ii) performs successfully with in-
26 creased numbers of users;

1 “(iii) is easy to use for the majority of
2 users; and

3 “(iv) is similar to systems already in
4 commercial use.

5 “(3) DEFINITION OF PUBLIC CLOUD.—In this
6 subsection, the term ‘public cloud’ means an infor-
7 mation technology model in which service providers
8 make computing services, including compute and
9 storage and develop-and-deploy environments and
10 applications, available on-demand to organizations
11 and individuals over the public internet.

12 “(b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—Funds
13 to carry out this section may only come from amounts au-
14 thorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and
15 Atmospheric Administration before the date of the enact-
16 ment of the National Weather Service Communications
17 Improvement Act.”.

18 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
19 in section 1(b) of the Weather Research and Forecasting

- 1 Innovation Act of 2017 is amended by inserting after the
- 2 item relating to section 414 the following:

“Sec. 415. National Weather Service communications.”.

Passed the Senate December 18, 2023.

Attest:

Secretary.

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