

Calendar No. 260

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1414**

To improve the instant messaging service used by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 2023

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

DECEMBER 4, 2023

Reported by Ms. CANTWELL, without amendment

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Weather
5 Service Communications Improvement Act”.

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

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

5 **“SEC. 415. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICA-**
6 **TIONS.**

7 “(a) IMPROVEMENT OF INSTANT MESSAGING SERV-
8 ICE.—

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

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

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

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

21 “(i) best accommodates future growth;

22 “(ii) performs successfully with in-
23 creased numbers of users;

24 “(iii) is easy to use for the majority of
25 users; and

1 “(iv) is similar to systems already in
2 commercial use.

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

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

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
17 in section 1(b) of the Weather Research and Forecasting
18 Innovation Act of 2017 is amended by inserting after the
19 item relating to section 414 the following:

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

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