

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7361

To upgrade the communications service used by the National Weather Service,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2022

Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mrs. AXNE, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. HINSON,
and Mr. GIMENEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To upgrade the communications 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”.

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

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

1 **“SEC. 415. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICA-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 “(a) **SYSTEM UPGRADE.**—The Director of the Na-
4 tional Weather Service shall improve the instant mes-
5 saging service used by National Weather Service personnel
6 by implementing a commercial off-the-shelf communica-
7 tions solution hosted on the public cloud to serve as a re-
8 placement for the communications system in use as of the
9 date of the enactment of this section (commonly referred
10 to as ‘NWSChat’). Such communications solution shall
11 satisfy requirements set forth by the Director to best ac-
12 commodate future growth and perform successfully with
13 increased numbers of users.

14 “(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
15 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026,
17 to remain available until expended.”.

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

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

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