

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7361

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

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,*

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 new section:

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

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

22 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026,
25 to remain available until expended.”.

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives July 27, 2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.