

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5440

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide that the President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Chief of the Forest Service.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Mr. LEE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide that the President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Chief of the Forest Service.

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 “Forest Service Ac-
5 countability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHIEF OF THE FOREST SERVICE.**

2 Subtitle E of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
3 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6961) is amended by add-
4 ing at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 246. CHIEF OF THE FOREST SERVICE.**

6 “(a) APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT; SENATE
7 ADVICE AND CONSENT.—The President shall appoint, by
8 and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Chief
9 of the Forest Service.

10 “(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed
11 under subsection (a) shall have substantial experience and
12 demonstrated competence in forest and natural resources
13 management.

14 “(c) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any nomination of an indi-
16 vidual to be the Chief of the Forest Service sub-
17 mitted to the Senate for confirmation, and referred
18 to a committee, shall be referred jointly to the Com-
19 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
20 the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Nat-
21 ural Resources of the Senate.

22 “(2) RULES OF SENATE.—Paragraph (1) is en-
23 acted—

24 “(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking
25 power of the Senate, and as such is deemed a
26 part of the rules of the Senate and supersedes

1 other rules only to the extent that they are in-
2 consistent with such rules; and

3 “(B) with full recognition of the constitu-
4 tional right of the Senate to change the rules
5 at any time, in the same manner, and to the
6 same extent as in the case of any other rule of
7 the Senate.

8 “(d) APPLICATION TO INCUMBENT.—Notwith-
9 standing any service by an individual serving in the posi-
10 tion of Chief of the Forest Service on the date of enact-
11 ment of this section, the President shall submit to the Sen-
12 ate a nomination for an individual to be the Chief of the
13 Forest Service not later than 30 days after that date of
14 enactment.”.

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