

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5490

To require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to maintain a communications program to communicate with the general public about patterns and trends with respect to changing weather and climate, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 11, 2024

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to maintain a communications program to communicate with the general public about patterns and trends with respect to changing weather and climate, 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 “Natural Disaster Edu-
5 cation and Outreach Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMUNICATION PROGRAM REGARDING PAT-**
2 **TERNS AND TRENDS WITH RESPECT TO**
3 **CHANGING WEATHER AND CLIMATE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Com-
5 merce for Oceans and Atmosphere (in this section referred
6 to as the “Under Secretary”) shall establish a communica-
7 tions program to communicate with the general public
8 about patterns and trends with respect to changing weath-
9 er and climate with the goal of—

10 (1) providing communities and local govern-
11 ments in the United States operational climate prod-
12 ucts and services to base key decisions about allo-
13 cating resources and preparedness measures before
14 actual weather events occur; and

15 (2) informing the general public about changing
16 weather patterns caused by a changing climate.

17 (b) COMMUNICATION REGARDING CLIMATE ASSESS-
18 MENTS.—In carrying out the communications program re-
19 quired under subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall in-
20 clude communication regarding the climate assessments
21 conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
22 ministration and may consider including communication
23 regarding other government climate assessments required
24 by the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C.
25 2921 et seq.), such as the National Climate Assessment.

26 (c) WORKING GROUP.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the commu-
2 nications program required under subsection (a), the
3 Under Secretary shall maintain a working group for
4 the purpose of identifying the most effective ways to
5 disseminate information about changing weather
6 patterns and risks associated with such changes, in-
7 cluding public campaigns, educational resources for
8 community and local leaders, and outreach to key
9 decision makers and educators in local government
10 and community organizations.

11 (2) MAKEUP AND ORGANIZATION.—The Under
12 Secretary shall determine the makeup and organiza-
13 tion of the working group required under paragraph
14 (1).

15 (3) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The working group
16 required under paragraph (1) shall coordinate with
17 existing programs engaged in weather and climate
18 communication and the provision of operational cli-
19 mate services, including the impact-based decision
20 support services of the National Weather Service.

21 (d) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
22 priated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
23 tration \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
24 2028 to carry out this section.

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