

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 324

To require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to carry out pilot projects relating to improved subseasonal to seasonal forecasting in agriculture and water management, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2025

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA) 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 carry out pilot projects relating to improved subseasonal to seasonal forecasting in agriculture and water management, 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 “Smarter Weather
5 Forecasting for Water Management, Farming, and
6 Ranching Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION IN AGRI-**
 2 **CULTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT.**

3 Section 1762 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (15
 4 U.S.C. 8521) is amended—

5 (1) by amending subsection (h) to read as fol-
 6 lows:

7 “(h) SUBSEASONAL TO SEASONAL FORECASTING
 8 PILOT PROJECTS.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Under Secretary
 10 shall establish not fewer than two pilot projects, in
 11 accordance with paragraph (2), within the U.S.
 12 Weather Research Program of the Oceanic and At-
 13 mospheric Research office of the National Oceanic
 14 and Atmospheric Administration to support im-
 15 proved subseasonal to seasonal precipitation fore-
 16 casts for the following:

17 “(A) Water management in the western
 18 United States.

19 “(B) Agriculture in the United States.

20 “(2) OBJECTIVES.—In carrying out this sub-
 21 section, the Under Secretary shall ensure the fol-
 22 lowing:

23 “(A) A pilot project under subparagraph
 24 (A) of paragraph (1) addresses key science
 25 challenges to improving forecasts and devel-
 26 oping related products for water management

in the western United States, including the following:

“(i) Improving operational model resolution, both horizontal and vertical, to resolve issues associated with mountainous terrain, such as intensity of precipitation and relative fraction of rain versus snow precipitation.

“(ii) Improving fidelity in the operational modeling of the atmospheric boundary layer in mountainous regions.

“(iii) Resolving challenges in predicting winter atmospheric circulation and storm tracks, including periods of blocked versus unblocked flow over the eastern North Pacific Ocean and western United States.

“(iv) Improving the forecast of atmospheric rivers.

“(v) Improving—

“(I) the quality and temporal and spatial resolution of observations of air-sea interactions;

“(II) operational modeling of air-sea interactions; and

1 “(III) operational modeling of
2 the influence of oceans on subseasonal
3 and seasonal forecasting.

4 “(B) A pilot project under subparagraph
5 (B) of paragraph (1) addresses key science
6 challenges to improving forecasts and devel-
7 oping related products for agriculture in the
8 United States, including the following:

9 “(i) Improving the quality and tem-
10 poral and spatial resolution of observations
11 and accurate operational modeling of the
12 land surface and hydrologic cycle, includ-
13 ing soil moisture and flash drought proc-
14 esses.

15 “(ii) Improving fidelity in the oper-
16 ational modeling of warm season precipita-
17 tion processes.

18 “(iii) Understanding and predicting
19 large-scale upper-level dynamical flow
20 anomalies that occur in spring and sum-
21 mer.

22 “(3) ACTIVITIES.—A pilot project under this
23 subsection shall include activities that—

24 “(A) best implement recommendations con-
25 tained in the 2020 report of the National

1 Weather Service, entitled ‘Subseasonal and Sea-
2 sonal Forecasting Innovation: Plans for the
3 Twenty-First Century’;

4 “(B) achieve measurable objectives for
5 operational forecast improvement;

6 “(C) engage with, and leverage the re-
7 sources of, institutions of higher education (as
8 such term is defined in section 101 of the High-
9 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), or
10 a consortia thereof, and entities within the Na-
11 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
12 in existence as of the date of the enactment of
13 this subsection, including Regional Climate
14 Centers and the National Centers for Environ-
15 mental Information; and

16 “(D) are carried out in coordination with
17 the Assistant Administrator for the Office of
18 Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and the Di-
19 rector of the National Weather Service.

20 “(4) SUNSET.—The authority under this sub-
21 section shall terminate on the date that is five years
22 after the date of the enactment of this subsection.”;
23 and

24 (2) by amending subsection (j) to read as fol-
25 lows:

1 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated \$45,000,000 for each
3 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out the activi-
4 ties under this section.”.

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