

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1416) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1416

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “NOAA Weather Radio Modernization Act of 2023” or the “NWR Modernization Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) NOAA WEATHER RADIO.—The term “NOAA Weather Radio” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards network.

(b) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 3. UPGRADING EXISTING SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, upgrade systems of NOAA Weather Radio in use as of the date of the enactment of this Act in order to expand coverage and ensure the reliability of NOAA Weather Radio.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall—

(1) maintain support for systems described in such subsection that serve areas not covered by or having poor quality cellular service;

(2) ensure consistent maintenance and operations monitoring, with timely repairs to equipment and antennas at broadcast transmitter sites;

(3) enhance the ability to amplify non-weather emergency messages through NOAA Weather Radio as necessary; and

(4) acquire additional transmitters as required to expand coverage to rural and underserved communities, units of the National Park System, and National Recreation Areas.

SEC. 4. MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, modernize NOAA Weather Radio to ensure the capabilities and coverage of NOAA Weather Radio remain valuable to the public.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall—

(1) upgrade the telecommunications infrastructure of NOAA Weather Radio to accelerate the transition of broadcasts to media that provide an increase in reliability and repairability over copper media;

(2) accelerate software upgrades to the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System of the National Weather Service, or any relevant successors of the system, in order to implement partial county notifications and alerts;

(3) enhance the accessibility and usability of data and feeds of NOAA Weather Radio, with the feedback of the public and user groups;

(4) develop options, including satellite backup capability and commercial provider partnerships, for continuity of service provided by NOAA Weather Radio in the event of outages among Weather Forecast Offices;

(5) research and develop alternative options, including microwave capabilities, to transmit signals from NOAA Weather Radio to transmitters that are remote or do not have Internet Protocol capability; and

(6) transition critical applications to the Integrated Dissemination Program of the National Weather Service, or any relevant successors of the program.

(c) PRIORITIES.—In carrying out subsections (a) and (b), the Under Secretary shall prioritize practices, capabilities, and technologies recommended in the assessment required by subsection (d) in order to maximize the accessibility of NOAA Weather Radio, particularly in remote areas of the United States and areas that are at risk for a lack of access to weather information in the event of an emergency weather event.

(d) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall complete and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives an assessment of access to NOAA Weather Radio.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—In conducting the assessment required by paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall take into consideration and provide recommendations on—

(A) the need for continuous, adequate, and operational real-time broadcasts from NOAA Weather Radio;

(B) solicited input on the compatibility of NOAA Weather Radio data with third-party platforms that provide online services, such as websites and mobile device applications, or deliver access to NOAA Weather Radio;

(C) existing or new management systems, which promote consistent, efficient, and compatible access to NOAA Weather Radio;

(D) the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to aggregate real-time broadcast feeds at one or more central locations;

(E) effective coordination between agencies with responsibilities relating to emergencies and natural disasters;

(F) the potential effects of an electromagnetic pulse or geomagnetic disturbance on NOAA Weather Radio; and

(G) improvements of hazardous weather and water event communications to more clearly inform action and increase the likelihood that the public takes such action to prevent the loss of life or property.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 260, S. 1414.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1414) to improve the instant messaging service used by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1414) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read a third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1414

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Weather Service Communications Improvement Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS.

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

“SEC. 415. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS.

“(a) IMPROVEMENT OF INSTANT MESSAGING SERVICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Weather Service shall improve the instant messaging service used by personnel of the National Weather Service by implementing by October 1, 2027, a commercial off-the-shelf communications solution that replaces the instant messaging service commonly referred to as ‘NWSChat’.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The communications solution implemented under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be hosted on the public cloud; and

“(B) satisfy requirements set forth by the Director to ensure that the solution—

“(i) best accommodates future growth;

“(ii) performs successfully with increased numbers of users;

“(iii) is easy to use for the majority of users; and

“(iv) is similar to systems already in commercial use.

“(3) DEFINITION OF PUBLIC CLOUD.—In this subsection, the term ‘public cloud’ means an information technology model in which service providers make computing services, including compute and storage and develop-and-deploy environments and applications, available on-demand to organizations and individuals over the public internet.

“(b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—Funds to carry out this section may only come from amounts authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration before the date of the enactment of the National Weather Service Communications Improvement Act.”.

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

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

REUSE EXCESS PROPERTY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 264, S. 2685.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2685) to make data and internal guidance on excess personal property publicly available, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Reuse Excess Property Act”.

SEC. 2. REPORTING ON EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 529—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives” after “Administrator of General Services”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) *COMPILATION OF DATA.*—Not later than 180 days following the close of a fiscal year, the Administrator shall compile the data in the reports submitted under subsection (a) and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and publish on a centralized online website a publicly available report, which shall include—

“(1) the complete data provided in each report in a user-friendly format;

“(2) a summary of the findings of each report, including the aggregate dollar amount of personal property determined to be no longer required for the purpose of the appropriation used to make the purchase; and

“(3) any other recommendations from the Administrator.”; and

(2) by inserting after section 529 the following:

“§530. Internal guidance on excess personal property

“(a) *INITIAL REPORT.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, each executive agency shall submit to the Administrator of General Services and make publicly available on the website of the executive agency the internal guidance of the executive agency on considering using excess personal property to meet the needs of the executive agency, which shall include—

“(1) a requirement to consider excess personal property before buying new;

“(2) when it is practicable to check for and obtain excess personal property;

“(3) how to evaluate the suitability of excess personal property for use; and

“(4) defined roles and responsibilities relevant to considering the use of excess personal property, including the designation of an employee as responsible for searching through available excess personal property for items that meet the needs of the executive agency.

“(b) *UPDATES.*—Each executive agency shall submit to the Administrator of General Services and update on the website of the executive agency any changes to the internal guidance submitted and made available under subsection (a).”.

(b) *REPORT ON INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall publish a publicly available report on a centralized online website that includes a summary of findings from the interagency working group on the acquisition of personal property that was first convened in February 2023 on ways to improve the use of excess personal property.

(c) *TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 529 the following:

“530. Internal guidance on excess personal property.”.

(d) *GAO REPORT.*—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Com-

mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates the frequency with which executive agencies (as defined in section 102 of title 40, United States Code) acquire personal property that was made, produced, or manufactured by any entity, including any corporation, that is organized under the laws of, is headquartered in, or has its principal place of business in the People's Republic of China, including any Special Administrative Region.

(e) *SUNSET.*—Effective the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 529—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives”; and

(B) by striking subsection (c);

(2) by striking section 530; and

(3) in the table of sections, by striking the item relating to section 530.

(f) *NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.*—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2685), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read a third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 512, S. Res. 513, and S. Res. 514.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measures en bloc?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Fonzzone nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed on December 13 ripen at 2:15 p.m.; that if cloture is invoked on either nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations immediately following the invoking of cloture; that upon disposition of the nominations, the Senate execute the order of December 5 with respect to the Richard nomination and vote on confirmation of the nomination; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of the Senate, there will be up to five rollcall votes beginning at 2:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:18 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 11 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 18, 2023:

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PAUL K. MARTIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

MARTIN O'MALLEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2025.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

DAVID K. SING, OF HAWAII, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026.