

Union Calendar No.

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7361

[Report No. 117-]

To upgrade the communications service used by the National Weather Service,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2022

Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mrs. AXNE, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. HINSON,
and Mr. GIMENEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

MAY --, 2022

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS.**

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

11 **“SEC. 415. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICA-**
12 **TIONS.**

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

24 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

1 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026,
2 to remain available until expended.”.

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

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