

## Union Calendar No. 41

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1496

[Report No. 118-61]

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

---

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2023

Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Ms. ROSS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SORENSEN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mrs. FOUSHEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

MAY 16, 2023

Additional sponsors: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CAREY, and Ms. LEE of  
Pennsylvania

MAY 16, 2023

Reported from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; 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 ‘NWSChat’). 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) FUNDING.—From amounts made available for  
25 Operations, Research, and Facilities, the Director of the

1 National Weather Service shall allocate up to \$3,000,000  
2 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2027 to carry out  
3 subsection (a).

4 “(c) LIMITATION ON FUNDING.—Amounts made  
5 available to carry out subsection (a) shall be derived from  
6 amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the  
7 National Weather Service.”.

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

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



Union Calendar No. 41

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session

**H. R. 1496**

[Report No. 118-61]

---

---

**A BILL**

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

---

---

MAY 16, 2023

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