



AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To establish the Weather Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 1st Sess.

(no.) _____

To help enhance commerce through improved seasonal forecasts, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. SCHATZ to the amendment (No. _____) proposed by Mr. NELSON

Viz:

- 1 On page 1, line 2, strike the period and insert the
- 2 following: “and insert the following:
- 3 **SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WEATHER COMMISSION.**
- 4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—
- 5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
- 6 tablish and support a commission—
- 7 (A) to assess the weather forecasts and
- 8 forecast products provided by the National Oce-
- 9 anic and Atmospheric Administration; and
- 10 (B) to provide advice to the Federal Gov-
- 11 ernment, including Congress, on matters relat-
- 12 ing to the highest priority weather forecast

1 needs of the community of users of the fore-
2 casts and products described in subparagraph
3 (A).

4 (2) DESIGNATION.—The commission estab-
5 lished under paragraph (1) shall be known as the
6 “Weather Commission”.

7 (3) INTERACTION WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES
8 AND DEPARTMENTS.—

9 (A) SECURING INFORMATION.—In carrying
10 out its functions under this section, the Weath-
11 er Commission may secure directly from any
12 Federal agency or department any information
13 it considers necessary to carry out its functions
14 under this Act.

15 (B) COOPERATION.—Each such agency or
16 department is authorized to cooperate with the
17 Weather Commission and, to the extent other-
18 wise permitted by law, to furnish such informa-
19 tion (other than information described in sec-
20 tion 552(b)(1)(A) of title 5, United States
21 Code) to the Weather Commission, upon the re-
22 quest of the Weather Commission.

23 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

24 (1) COMPOSITION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Weather Commis-
 2 sion shall be composed of individuals appointed
 3 by the ~~President~~ *Administrator of the National Oceanic and*
 4 and innovators from each relevant stakeholder *Atmospheric*
 5 group described in clauses (i) through (vii) of *Administration*
 6 subparagraph (B).

7 (B) NUMBER.—The Weather Commission
 8 shall be composed of no fewer than ~~16~~ *14* mem-
 9 bers, including—

10 (i) 2 representatives from State emer-
 11 gency management agencies;

12 (ii) 2 representatives from State agri-
 13 culture agencies;

14 (iii) 1 representative from the Native
 15 American, Alaskan Native, or Native Ha-
 16 waiian community;

17 (iv) 2 representatives from the private
 18 aerospace industry;

19 (v) 2 representatives from the oper-
 20 ational forecasting community;

21 (vi) 2 representatives from the aca-
 22 demic community; *and*

23 (vii) 1 representative from a profes-
 24 sional society that focuses on meteorology; *g*

- 1 ~~(viii) the chair of the Science Advisory~~
2 ~~Board of the National Oceanic and Atmos-~~
3 ~~spheric Administration,~~
4 ~~(ix) the chair of the National Science~~
5 ~~Board,~~
6 ~~(x) the Director of the Office of~~
7 ~~Science and Technology Policy, ex officio,~~
8 and
9 ~~(xi) the Administrator of the National~~
10 ~~Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,~~
11 ~~ex officio.~~

12 (2) CHAIR.—The Weather Commission shall se-
13 lect a chairperson from among its members.

14 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Weather Commission
15 are as follows:

16 (1) To assess the weather forecasts and fore-
17 cast products of the Administration as described in
18 subsection (a)(1).

19 (2) To provide advice to the Federal govern-
20 ment, including Congress, as described in subsection
21 (a)(1).

22 (3) To obtain public comment on the weather
23 forecasts and products of the Administration that
24 the Administrator determines are the highest pri-
25 ority for users of such forecasts and products.

1 (d) REPORT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Weather
4 Commission shall submit to Congress and make
5 available to the public on an Internet website a re-
6 port on matters relating to the activities of the
7 Weather Commission.

8 (2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
9 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

10 (A) The findings of the Weather Commis-
11 sion with respect to the assessment conducted
12 under paragraph (1) of subsection (e).

13 (B) The findings of the Weather Commis-
14 sion with respect to the public comments ob-
15 tained under paragraph (3) of such subsection

16 (C) Such recommendations as the Weather
17 Commission may have for legislative or admin-
18 istrative action.

19 (e) EXEMPTION FROM FACCA.—The Weather Com-
20 mission shall not be subject to the requirements of the
21 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

22 (f) TERMINATION.—The Weather Commission shall
23 terminate on the date that is 4 years after the date of
24 enactment of this Act.

1 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
3 carry out this section \$1,000,000 for the period of fiscal
4 years 2015 through 2019.