

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To improve the instant messaging service used by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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## A BILL

To improve the instant messaging 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:

1 **“SEC. 415. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COMMUNICA-**  
2 **TIONS.**

3 “(a) IMPROVEMENT OF INSTANT MESSAGING SERV-  
4 ICE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Na-  
6 tional Weather Service shall improve the instant  
7 messaging service used by personnel of the National  
8 Weather Service by implementing by October 1,  
9 2027, a commercial off-the-shelf communications so-  
10 lution that replaces the instant messaging service  
11 commonly referred to as ‘NWSChat’.

12 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The communications so-  
13 lution implemented under paragraph (1) shall—

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

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

17 “(i) best accommodates future growth;

18 “(ii) performs successfully with in-  
19 creased numbers of users;

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

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

24 “(3) DEFINITION OF PUBLIC CLOUD.—In this  
25 subsection, the term ‘public cloud’ means an infor-  
26 mation technology model in which service providers

1 make computing services, including compute and  
2 storage and develop-and-deploy environments and  
3 applications, available on-demand to organizations  
4 and individuals over the public internet.

5 “(b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—Funds  
6 to carry out this section may only come from amounts au-  
7 thorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and  
8 Atmospheric Administration before the date of the enact-  
9 ment of the National Weather Service Communications  
10 Improvement Act.”.

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

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