

Calendar No. 196

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1523****[Report No. 119–85]**

To modify operations of the National Water Center of the National Oceanic
and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2025

Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

OCTOBER 21, 2025

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To modify operations of the National Water Center of the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 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 “Water Research Opti-
5 mization Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF OPERATIONS OF NATIONAL**
 2 **WATER CENTER.**

3 Section 301 of the Coordinated Ocean Observations
 4 and Research Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 10371) is amend-
 5 ed—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
 9 by inserting “, within the Office of Water
 10 Prediction of the National Weather Serv-
 11 ice,” after “shall establish”;

12 (ii) in clause (i), by striking “and”
 13 after the semicolon;

14 (iii) in clause (ii), by striking the pe-
 15 riod and inserting “, and”; and

16 (iv) by adding at the end the following
 17 new clause:

18 “(iii) to lead the transition of water
 19 research by the Federal Government, in-
 20 cluding model development, into operations
 21 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 22 Administration and the National Weather
 23 Service.”;

24 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
 25 the following:

1 “(F) Serving as the primary center within
 2 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
 3 istration for research, development, collabora-
 4 tion, and coordination of the water research
 5 and operational activities of the Administration
 6 and other centers and networks of the Federal
 7 Government, including those of the Department
 8 of Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engineers,
 9 the Bureau of Reclamation, the United States
 10 Geological Survey, and the Federal Emergency
 11 Management Agency.

12 “(G) Integrating and promoting consist-
 13 ency among national and regional hydrological
 14 operations.”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(3) INCORPORATION INTO UNIFIED FORECAST
 17 SYSTEM.—The Under Secretary shall use the Weath-
 18 er and Climate Operational Supercomputing System,
 19 or any successor system, to support the development
 20 and implementation of advanced water resources
 21 modeling capabilities under paragraph (2)(B) and
 22 shall incorporate those modeling capabilities into the
 23 unified forecast system.”;

24 (2) by striking subsection (b);

1 ~~(3)~~ by redesignating subsections ~~(c)~~, ~~(d)~~, and
 2 ~~(e)~~ as subsections ~~(b)~~, ~~(e)~~, and ~~(f)~~, respectively;

3 ~~(4)~~ by inserting after subsection ~~(b)~~, as redesign-
 4 nated by paragraph ~~(3)~~, the following:

5 ~~“(e) ORGANIZATION WITH RIVER FORECAST CEN-~~
 6 ~~TERS.—The Under Secretary, acting through the Director~~
 7 ~~of the Office of Water Prediction of the National Weather~~
 8 ~~Service, shall supervise and oversee the administration,~~
 9 ~~management, and operations of each River Forecast Cen-~~
 10 ~~ter of the National Weather Service and coordinate those~~
 11 ~~operations with the National Water Center.~~

12 ~~“(d) ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF COOP-~~
 13 ~~ERATIVE INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH TO OPERATIONS IN~~
 14 ~~HYDROLOGY.—The Under Secretary, acting through the~~
 15 ~~Director of the Office of Water Prediction of the National~~
 16 ~~Weather Service, shall administer the duties and activities~~
 17 ~~of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration~~
 18 ~~related to the Cooperative Institute for Research to Oper-~~
 19 ~~ations in Hydrology, or any successor entity, and coordi-~~
 20 ~~nate the activities of the Institute with the National Water~~
 21 ~~Center.”; and~~

22 ~~(5)~~ in subsection ~~(c)~~(4), as redesignated by
 23 paragraph ~~(3)~~, by striking “fiscal year 2024” and
 24 inserting “each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Water Research Optimi-*
 3 *zation Act of 2025”.*

4 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF OPERATIONS OF NATIONAL**
 5 **WATER CENTER.**

6 *Section 301 of the Coordinated Ocean Observations*
 7 *and Research Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 10371) is amended—*

8 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

9 *(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—*

10 *(i) in the matter preceding clause (i),*
 11 *by inserting “, within the Office of Water*
 12 *Prediction of the National Weather Serv-*
 13 *ice,” after “shall establish”;*

14 *(ii) in clause (i), by striking “and”*
 15 *after the semicolon;*

16 *(iii) in clause (ii), by striking the pe-*
 17 *riod and inserting “; and”; and*

18 *(iv) by adding at the end the following*
 19 *new clause:*

20 *“(iii) to lead the transition of water*
 21 *research by the Federal Government, includ-*
 22 *ing model development, into operations of*
 23 *the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*
 24 *ministration and the National Weather*
 25 *Service.”;*

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
2 the following:

3 “(F) Serving as the primary center within
4 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
5 tration for research, development, collaboration,
6 and coordination of the water research and
7 water forecast activities of the Administration
8 and other centers and networks of the Federal
9 Government, including those of the Department
10 of Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engineers, the
11 Bureau of Reclamation, the United States Geo-
12 logical Survey, and the Federal Emergency Man-
13 agement Agency.

14 “(G) Integrating and promoting consistency
15 among national and regional hydrological fore-
16 cast operations and service delivery.”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(3) INCORPORATION INTO UNIFIED FORECAST
19 SYSTEM.—The Under Secretary shall use the Weather
20 and Climate Operational Supercomputing System, or
21 any successor system, to support the development and
22 implementation of advanced water resources modeling
23 capabilities under paragraph (2)(B) and shall incor-
24 porate those modeling capabilities into the unified
25 forecast system.”;

1 (2) *by striking subsection (b);*

2 (3) *by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection*
 3 *(b);*

4 (4) *by inserting after subsection (b), as redesign-*
 5 *ated by paragraph (3), the following:*

6 “(c) *ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.—The*
 7 *Under Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office*
 8 *of Water Prediction of the National Weather Service,*
 9 *shall—*

10 “(1) *supervise and oversee the administration,*
 11 *management, and operations of each River Forecast*
 12 *Center of the National Weather Service and coordi-*
 13 *nate those operations with the National Water Center;*
 14 *and*

15 “(2) *administer the duties and activities of the*
 16 *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*
 17 *related to the Cooperative Institute for Research to*
 18 *Operations in Hydrology, or any successor entity,*
 19 *and coordinate the activities of the Institute with the*
 20 *National Water Center.”; and*

21 (5) *in subsection (d)(4) by inserting before the*
 22 *period the following: “and each of fiscal years 2026*
 23 *through 2030”.*

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