

The Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2025

Improving NOAA's Weather Forecasting and Prediction Capabilities

The U.S. weather system provides essential resources to communities across the country:

- Americans rely on accurate weather forecasting to protect life and property.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides critical weather tools, data, and operations accessible and useful to citizens nationwide.
- Every second counts during weather emergencies, and NOAA's services equip Americans with timely warnings and support.
- A recent 2023 survey ranked The Weather Channel – which heavily depends on data from NOAA's National Weather Service – as the most trusted news source among Americans.
- Ensuring NOAA is modern and reliable will secure the United States' global leadership in weather forecasting, modeling, and prediction.

This legislation builds on significant advances in our weather forecasting abilities:

- In 2017, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee passed the bipartisan Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act, the first comprehensive weather policy authorization in over two decades.
- The Weather Act Reauthorization will build on the 2017 bill's accomplishments, which made advancements in weather forecasting and the prediction of high-impact weather events.
- In the 118th Congress, the Weather Act Reauthorization of 2023 (H.R. 6390) passed the House of Representatives with 394 YES votes. However, the bill was not taken up in the Senate.

The Weather Act Reauthorization gives Americans better forecasts:

- Improves severe weather forecasting by modernizing the critical research programs authorized by the 2017 Weather Act, including tornado warning capabilities and hurricane forecasting capacity.
- Supports cutting-edge forecasting by establishing new research and development programs related to the next generation of radar, atmospheric rivers, flooding, storm surges, aviation weather, and more.
- Increases NOAA's access to critical forecasting data by expanding its authority to contract with the private sector to acquire commercial weather data and codifying the Commercial Data Program to lead this work.
- Strengthens emergency preparedness by improving the communication of weather and flooding events to the public from critical warnings to emergency information.
- Provides farmers and ranchers with better tools and services for agriculture and water management, including improvements to subseasonal to seasonal research and forecasting.
- Reauthorizes key public tools such as the National Integrated Drought Information System, the National Mesonet Program, the Precipitation Forecast Improvement Program and the National Coordinated Soil Moisture Monitoring Network.
- Removes 18 different reports, plans, or strategies to Congress, ensuring NOAA is focused on taking action, not bureaucratic assessments.