AMENDMENT NO._______ Calendar No._____

Purpose: To require an aqua alert notification system pilot program.


S. 4802

To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, 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. BLUMENTHAL

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle A of title II, add the following:

2 SEC. ____. AQUA ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM PILOT PROGRAM.

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish a pilot program to improve the issuance of alerts to facilitate cooperation with the public to render aid to distressed individuals under section 521 of title 14, United States Code.
(b) Pilot Program Contents.—The pilot program established under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent possible—

(1) include a voluntary opt-in program under which members of the public, as appropriate, and the entities described in subsection (c), may receive notifications on cellular devices regarding Coast Guard activities to render aid to distressed individuals under section 521 of title 14, United States Code;

(2) cover areas located within the area of responsibility of 3 different Coast Guard sectors in diverse geographic regions; and

(3) provide that the dissemination of an alert shall be limited to the geographic areas most likely to facilitate the rendering of aid to distressed individuals.

(c) Consultation.—In developing the pilot program under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consult—

(1) the head of any relevant Federal agency;

(2) the government of any relevant State;

(3) any Tribal government;

(4) the government of any relevant territory or possession of the United States; and
(5) any relevant political subdivision of an entity described in paragraph (2), (3), or (4).

(d) Report to Congress.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2026, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this section.

(2) Public availability.—The Commandant shall make the report submitted under paragraph (1) available to the public.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commandant to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026, to remain available until expended.