



AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 1st Sess.**S. 1523**

To modify operations of the National Water Center of the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 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 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mr. CRUZ

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Water Research Opti-
5 mization Act of 2025".

6 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF OPERATIONS OF NATIONAL**
7 **WATER CENTER.**

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

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

2 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
3 by inserting “, within the Office of Water
4 Prediction of the National Weather Serv-
5 ice,” after “shall establish”;

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

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

10 (iv) by adding at the end the following
11 new clause:

12 “(iii) to lead the transition of water
13 research by the Federal Government, in-
14 cluding model development, into operations
15 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
16 Administration and the National Weather
17 Service.”;

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

20 “(F) Serving as the primary center within
21 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
22 istration for research, development, collabora-
23 tion, and coordination of the water research
24 and water forecast activities of the Administra-
25 tion and other centers and networks of the Fed-

1 eral Government, including those of the Depart-
2 ment of Agriculture, the Army Corps of Engi-
3 neers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the United
4 States Geological Survey, and the Federal
5 Emergency Management Agency.

6 “(G) Integrating and promoting consist-
7 ency among national and regional hydrological
8 forecast operations and service delivery.”; and

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

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

18 (2) by striking subsection (b);

19 (3) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
20 section (b);

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

23 “(c) ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.—The
24 Under Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office

1 of Water Prediction of the National Weather Service,
2 shall—

3 “(1) supervise and oversee the administration,
4 management, and operations of each River Forecast
5 Center of the National Weather Service and coordi-
6 nate those operations with the National Water Cen-
7 ter; and

8 “(2) administer the duties and activities of the
9 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
10 related to the Cooperative Institute for Research to
11 Operations in Hydrology, or any successor entity,
12 and coordinate the activities of the Institute with the
13 National Water Center.”; and

14 (5) in subsection (d)(4) by inserting before the
15 period the following: “and each of fiscal years 2026
16 through 2030”.