

S. 4802 Cantwell_Cruz_Substitute



AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 2d Sess.**S. 4802**

To provide for the acquisition by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of aircraft for air, atmosphere, and weather reconnaissance and research missions, 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 Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and 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 “Hurricane Hunter Air-
5 craft Recapitalization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACQUISITION OF AIRCRAFT FOR AIR, ATMOSPHERE,**
7 **AND WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE AND RE-**
8 **SEARCH MISSIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11708 of the Don Young
10 Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (division K of

1 Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 4158; 33 U.S.C. note
2 prec. 851) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) by striking “INCREASED” and all that
5 follows through “The Under” and inserting
6 “HURRICANE HUNTER MISSION.—The Under”;

7 (B) by striking “shall acquire” and insert-
8 ing the following: “shall—
9 “(1) acquire and maintain”;

10 (C) by striking “requirements—” and all
11 that follows through “air reconnaissance and”
12 and inserting “requirements to meet the Na-
13 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
14 air reconnaissance and”;

15 (D) by striking “(B) to ensure” and all
16 that follows through “or nongovernmental enti-
17 ties.” in paragraph (2) and inserting the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(2) carry out airborne reconnaissance and re-
20 search missions using such aircraft platforms under
21 paragraph (1).”;

22 (2) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and
23 (d) as subsections (d), (e), and (h), respectively;

24 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(b) MISSION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out sub-
2 section (a), the Under Secretary shall—

3 “(1) collect real-time meteorological, oceano-
4 graphic, and atmospheric observations and ensure
5 such data is made available in near real-time for re-
6 search and operational purposes, including fore-
7 casting, warning, and reconnaissance missions;

8 “(2) maintain the capability to safely conduct
9 direct airborne penetration of hurricanes and trop-
10 ical cyclones; and

11 “(3) ensure continuity of airborne hurricane re-
12 connaissance capability during any aircraft recapital-
13 ization or transition period, including through the
14 acquisition and maintenance of backup capabilities
15 sufficient to prevent a single point of failure.

16 “(c) AIRBORNE OBSERVING TECHNOLOGIES.—In
17 carrying out subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall
18 maintain and replace airborne radar and remote sensing
19 capabilities, including Tail Doppler Radar capabilities or
20 successor technologies, necessary to support operational
21 hurricane reconnaissance and forecasting missions.”;

22 (4) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

23 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
24 by striking “up to 6” and inserting “not fewer
25 than 6, but not more than 9, manned”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “sub-
2 paragraph (A)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”;

3 (5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by
4 striking “agency air reconnaissance and research
5 mission requirements” and inserting “the mission
6 requirements described in subsection (b)”;

7 (6) by inserting after subsection (e), as so re-
8 designated, the following:

9 “(f) MULTIYEAR CONTRACTS.—Pursuant to section
10 3903 of title 41, United States Code, the Under Secretary
11 may enter into multiyear contracts for the acquisition of
12 aircraft in accordance with this section or the maintenance
13 of such aircraft, including any associated services or sup-
14 port. Notwithstanding subsection (a) of such section 3903,
15 such contracts may be for terms that exceed 5 years.

16 “(g) NOAA CORPS AVIATION CAPABILITY.—The
17 Under Secretary shall maintain qualified National Oceanic
18 and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer
19 Corps aviators to conduct the airborne reconnaissance and
20 research missions authorized under subsection (a)(2).”;
21 and

22 (7) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

23 (A) by striking “For fiscal year 2023” and
24 inserting the following:

1 “(1) ACQUISITION OF AIRCRAFT.—For the pe-
2 riod of fiscal years 2027 through 2031”;

3 (B) by striking “\$800,000,000” and in-
4 serting “\$2,500,000,000”; and

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

6 “(2) OMAO AVIATION OPERATIONS AND AIR-
7 CRAFT SERVICES.—For each of fiscal years 2027
8 through 2031, there is authorized to be appropriated
9 to the Under Secretary \$45,000,000 for aviation op-
10 erations and aircraft services by the Office of Marine
11 and Aviation Operations.”.

12 (b) TRANSFER.—

13 (1) WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING
14 INNOVATION ACT OF 2017.—The Weather Research
15 and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 is amended
16 by repealing section 413 (15 U.S.C. 8549).

17 (2) TRANSFER FROM DON YOUNG COAST GUARD
18 AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022.—The Don Young
19 Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 and the
20 Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act
21 of 2017 are further amended by transferring section
22 11708 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization
23 Act of 2022, as amended by subsection (a), to the
24 Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act
25 of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.) to appear as sec-

1 tion 413 of such Act and redesignating that trans-
2 ferred section as section 413.

3 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
4 in section 1(b) of the Weather Research and Forecasting
5 Innovation Act of 2017 is amended by striking the item
6 related to section 413 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 413. Acquisition of aircraft for air, atmosphere, and weather reconnais-
sance and research missions”.