

S 572

A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to study the coverage gaps of the Next Generation Weather Radar of the National Weather Service and to develop a plan for improving radar coverage and hazardous weather detection and forecasting, and for other purposes.

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 8, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Mar 8, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/572>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]

Party: Republican • **State:** NC • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 8, 2017
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Mar 8, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 8, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 1427	Related bill	Apr 25, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment.

This bill directs the Department of Commerce to complete a study on gaps in the coverage of the Next Generation Weather Radar of the National Weather Service (NEXRAD).

Commerce shall identify areas in the United States with limited or no NEXRAD coverage below 6,000 feet above ground level of the surrounding terrain.

For those areas identified, Commerce shall also:

- identify the key weather effects for which prediction would improve with improved radar detection;
- identify additional sources of observations for high impact weather available and operational for such areas, including Terminal Doppler Weather Radar, air surveillance radars of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and cooperative network observers; and
- assess the feasibility and advisability of efforts to integrate and upgrade federal radar capabilities in such areas that are not owned or controlled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including radar capabilities of the FAA and the Department of Defense.

In addition, under such study Commerce shall:

- assess the feasibility and advisability of incorporating state-operated and other nonfederal radars into the operations of the National Weather Service (NWS); and
- identify options to improve radar coverage in all of the areas identified as having limited or no NEXRAD coverage.

After completing the study, Commerce shall submit a plan for improving radar coverage in the identified areas by integrating and upgrading additional observation solutions to improve hazardous weather detection and forecasting.

Commerce shall seek third-party reviews on scientific methodology related to, and the feasibility and advisability of, implementing the plan to improve radar coverage, including the extent to which warning and forecast services of the NWS would be improved by additional NEXRAD coverage.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 8, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 8, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.