

S 1284

TORNADO Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Apr 25, 2023

Current Status: By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Re

Latest Action: By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report.

Report No. 118-138. (Dec 13, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1284>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]

Party: Republican • State: MS • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Apr 25, 2023
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Apr 25, 2023
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Apr 25, 2023
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Apr 25, 2023
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Apr 25, 2023
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Apr 25, 2023
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Apr 25, 2023
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		Apr 25, 2023
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		May 10, 2023
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		May 18, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 4, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Tornado Observations Research and Notification Assessment for Development of Operations Act or the TORNADO Act

This bill requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to evaluate and improve its communications about hurricanes, tornadoes, winter storms, and other hazardous weather events.

Specifically, NOAA must establish a Risk Communication Office to evaluate the effectiveness of NOAA's communications and to identify ways to provide simpler and clearer information to the public about hazardous weather events. NOAA must also (1) establish a research program to modernize its communication systems, and (2) establish a pilot program to implement the research with respect to communications about tornadoes.

Additionally, the bill requires NOAA to develop a strategic plan for implementing the Warn-on-Forecast System, which aims to provide more advanced warnings of thunderstorm-related events (e.g., tornadoes). The bill also requires NOAA to evaluate its tornado rating system and to conduct post-storm assessments of significant events.

The bill also provides statutory authority for NOAA's Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment (known as VORTEX-USA), a collaborative project between meteorologists and social scientists to study the conditions that contribute to dangerous tornadoes in the Southeast and the best ways to communicate these events to the public.

Finally, the Government Accountability Office must report on the National Weather Service's communication technology, particularly with respect to timely notices of hazardous weather events.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 13, 2023:** By Senator Cantwell from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Report No. 118-138.
- **Dec 4, 2023:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Cantwell with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 4, 2023:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 258.
- **May 10, 2023:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Apr 25, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 25, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.