

HR 4866

Fire Weather Development Act of 2024

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jul 25, 2023

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Apr 30, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4866>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Garcia, Mike [R-CA-27]

Party: Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Caraveo, Yadira [D-CO-8]	D · CO		Jul 25, 2023
Rep. Kim, Young [R-CA-40]	R · CA		Jul 25, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 30, 2024
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Reported By	Sep 22, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 369	Related bill	Sep 1, 2023: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 142.

Fire Weather Development Act of 2024

This bill establishes several programs and requirements to address wildfire forecasting, detection, and management, particularly with respect to interagency collaboration.

For example, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) must establish a program to improve collaboration between federal, state, and local entities with respect to wildfire management. Program goals include improving communication about wildfire spread, earlier detection of wildfires, and better understanding of the impact of climate change on fire weather environments. Authorized activities include research and development of communication tools, modeling systems, and other relevant technology to help with wildfire management, as well as education and training for researchers and enhancing data sharing capabilities between agencies.

NOAA may also (1) contract with private sector entities to obtain additional airborne and space-based data to support wildfire prediction and monitoring, and (2) conduct pilot programs to test the use of unmanned aircraft systems for fire weather observations.

The bill also establishes the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Wildfires (to assist state and local agencies with wildfire management while avoiding duplication of activities) and the National Advisory Committee on Wildfires (to advise the coordinating committee and other relevant entities on wildfire management).

Finally, the bill exempts incident meteorologists of the National Weather Service from premium pay limitations when responding to emergency wildfires. It also requires the National Institute of Standards and Technology to recommend ways to improve the standards of communication between wildfire first responders and fire management response officials.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 30, 2024:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Apr 29, 2024:** Mr. Lucas moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Apr 29, 2024:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H2646-2651)
- **Apr 29, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 4866.
- **Apr 29, 2024:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Apr 29, 2024:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H2687-2688)
- **Apr 29, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 341 - 48 (Roll no. 153). (text: CR H2646-2649)
- **Apr 29, 2024:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 341 - 48 (Roll no. 153). (text: CR H2646-2649)
- **Apr 29, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Apr 29, 2024:** The title of the measure was amended. Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 22, 2023:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H. Rept. 118-214.
- **Sep 22, 2023:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 174.
- **Jul 27, 2023:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held
- **Jul 27, 2023:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 33 - 2.
- **Jul 25, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 25, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.