

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1958

To exempt certain positions of the National Weather Service that are necessary for public safety from any Federal Government hiring freeze, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 4, 2025

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To exempt certain positions of the National Weather Service that are necessary for public safety from any Federal Government hiring freeze, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Operational
5 Resilience in Emergency Conditions And Storm Tracking
6 Act” or the “FORECAST Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS WITHIN THE**
2 **NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FROM FED-**
3 **ERAL GOVERNMENT HIRING FREEZES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall exempt cov-
5 ered positions within the National Weather Service from
6 any Executive order or memorandum imposing a hiring
7 freeze for employees of the Federal Government due to
8 the role of those positions as necessary for public safety
9 in issuing weather and flood warnings, maintaining critical
10 observational equipment, and protecting life and property
11 from weather-related hazards.

12 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall imple-
13 ment the requirement under subsection (a) by not later
14 than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

15 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
17 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on staffing
18 levels at the National Weather Service for covered posi-
19 tions.

20 (d) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The requirement
21 under subsection (a) shall negate any job offer rescinded
22 on or after January 20, 2025, for a covered position.

23 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) COVERED POSITION.—The term “covered
25 position” means a position of the National Weather
26 Service in job series 1340 (meteorology), 1315 (hy-

1 drology), or 856 (electronics technician), or any suc-
2 cessor job series number.

3 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Commerce.

