

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4912

To require the evaluation of certain criteria relating to locations for deployment of successor radar systems of the National Weather Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require the evaluation of certain criteria relating to locations for deployment of successor radar systems of the National Weather Service, 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. EVALUATION OF LOCATIONS FOR DEPLOY-**
4 **MENT OF SUCCESSOR RADAR SYSTEMS OF**
5 **THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.**

6 (a) PLAN TO IMPROVE RADAR COVERAGE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary of Commerce and the Director of the Na-

1 tional Weather Service, in consultation with the Ad-
2 ministrator of the Federal Aviation Administration,
3 shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space,
4 and Technology and the Committee on Appropria-
5 tions of the House of Representatives and Com-
6 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
7 and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate
8 a plan for improving radar coverage, by integrating
9 or upgrading, to the extent practicable and as the
10 case may be, additional observation solutions to im-
11 prove hazardous weather detection and forecasting.

12 (2) DETERMINATION.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—In developing the plan
14 to improve radar coverage under paragraph (1),
15 the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of
16 the National Weather Service, in consultation
17 with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
18 Administration—

19 (i) shall prioritize locations for the de-
20 ployment of the successor radar system
21 that will replace the current Next Genera-
22 tion Weather Radar of the National
23 Weather Radar Service (NEXRAD); and

1 (ii) may determine additional appro-
2 priate locations for the deployment of such
3 successor radar system installations.

4 (B) CONSIDERATION.—In making a deter-
5 mination pursuant to subparagraph (A), the
6 Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the
7 National Weather Service shall consider deploy-
8 ment in at least three locations that are not less
9 than 75 miles from an existing NEXRAD sta-
10 tion. In making such a determination for a de-
11 ployment location, the Secretary of Commerce
12 and the Director of the National Weather Serv-
13 ice may also consider the criteria described in
14 subsection (b).

15 (b) CRITERIA DESCRIBED.—The criteria described in
16 this subsection are the following:

17 (1) Whether a population of 200,000 or more
18 would be served by a successor radar installation at
19 the location.

20 (2) The frequency of any of the following
21 issuances at the location:

22 (A) Severe thunderstorm watches or warn-
23 ings.

24 (B) Tornado watches or warnings.

25 (C) Flash flood watches or warnings.

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(D) Winter storm warnings.

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