

the Review Board with regard to specific civil rights cold case records; and

(B) a statement, based on a review of the proceedings and in conformity with the decisions reflected therein, designating a recommended specified time at which or a specified occurrence following which the material may be appropriately disclosed to the public under this Act.

(4) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days after the Review Board makes a determination that a civil rights cold case record shall be publicly disclosed in the Collection or postponed for disclosure and held in the protected Collection, the Review Board shall notify the head of the originating body of its determination and publish a copy of the determination in the Federal Register.

(5) OTHER NOTICE.—Contemporaneous notice shall be made to the President of Review Board determinations regarding executive branch civil rights cold case records, and to the oversight committees designated in this Act in the case of legislative branch records. Such notice shall contain an unclassified written justification for public disclosure or postponement of disclosure, including an explanation of the application of any standards under section 4.

(d) PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY OVER REVIEW BOARD DETERMINATION.—

(1) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OR POSTPONEMENT OF DISCLOSURE.—After the Review Board has made a formal determination concerning the public disclosure or postponement of disclosure of an executive branch civil rights cold case record or information contained in a civil rights cold case record, obtained or developed solely within the executive branch, the President shall have the sole and non-delegable authority to require the disclosure or postponement of such record or information under the standards set forth in section 4, and the President shall provide the Review Board with an unclassified written certification specifying the President's decision within 30 days after the Review Board's determination and notice to the executive agency as required under this Act, stating the justification for the President's decision, including the applicable grounds for postponement under section 4.

(2) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Any executive branch civil rights cold case record for which public disclosure is postponed by the President shall be subject to the requirements of periodic review and declassification of classified information and public disclosure in the Collection set forth in section 3.

(3) RECORD OF PRESIDENTIAL POSTPONEMENT.—The Review Board shall, upon its receipt, publish in the Federal Register a copy of any unclassified written certification, statement, or other materials transmitted by or on behalf of the President with regard to postponement of the public disclosure of civil rights cold case records.

(e) NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.—On each day that is on or after the date that is 60 days after the Review Board first approves the postponement of disclosure of a civil rights cold case record, the Review Board shall publish on a publicly available website a notice that summarizes the postponements approved by the Review Board or initiated by the President, including a description of the subject, originating body, length or other physical description, and each ground for postponement that is relied upon.

(f) REPORTS BY THE REVIEW BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Review Board shall report its activities to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the President, the Archivist, and the head of any Government office whose records have been the subject of Review Board activity.

(2) DEADLINES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter until termination of the Review Board, the Review Board shall issue a report under paragraph (1).

(3) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include the following information:

(A) A financial report of the expenses for all official activities and requirements of the Review Board and its employees.

(B) The progress made on review, transmission to the Archivist, and public disclosure of civil rights cold case records.

(C) The estimated time and volume of civil rights cold case records involved in the completion of the Review Board's performance under this Act.

(D) Any special problems, including requests and the level of cooperation of Government offices, with regard to the ability of the Review Board to operate as required by this Act.

(E) A record of review activities, including a record of postponement decisions by the Review Board or other related actions authorized by this Act, and a record of the volume of records reviewed and postponed.

(F) Recommendations and requests to Congress for additional authorization.

(G) An appendix containing copies of reports of postponed records to the Archivist required under subsection (c)(3) made since the date of the preceding report under this subsection.

(4) NOTICE OF TERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days before terminating, the Review Board shall provide written notice to the President and the Congress of its intention to terminate its operations at a specified date.

SEC. 8. DISCLOSURE OF OTHER INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL STUDY.

(a) MATERIALS UNDER THE SEAL OF THE COURT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Review Board may request the Attorney General to petition any court in the United States or abroad to release any information relevant to civil rights cold cases that is held under seal of court.

(2) GRAND JURY MATERIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Review Board may request the Attorney General to petition any court in the United States to release any information relevant to civil rights cold cases that is held under the injunction of secrecy of a grand jury.

(B) PARTICULARIZED NEED.—A request for disclosure of civil rights cold case records under this Act shall be deemed to constitute a showing of particularized need under rule 6 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

(3) DEADLINE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall respond to any request that is subject to this subsection within 45 days.

(B) NONDISCLOSURE OF GRAND JURY INFORMATION.—If the Attorney General determines that information relevant to a civil rights cold case that is held under the injunction of secrecy of a grand jury should not be made public, the Attorney General shall set forth in the response to the request the reasons for the determination.

(b) COOPERATION WITH AGENCIES.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Attorney General should assist the Review Board in good faith to unseal any records that the Review Board determines to be relevant and held under the seal by a court or under the injunction of secrecy of a grand jury; and

(2) all departments and agencies of the United States Government should cooperate in full with the Review Board to seek the disclosure of all information relevant to civil rights cold cases consistent with the public interest.

SEC. 9. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) PRECEDENCE OVER OTHER LAW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), when this Act requires transmission of a record to the Archivist or public disclosure, it shall take precedence over any other law (except section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), judicial decisions construing such law, or common law doctrine that would otherwise prohibit such transmission or disclosure with the exception of deeds governing access to or transfer or release of gifts and donations of records to the United States Government.

(2) PERSONNEL AND MEDICAL FILES.—This Act shall not require the public disclosure of information that is exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(6) of title 5, United States Code.

(b) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to eliminate or limit any right to file any requests with any executive agency or seek judicial review of the decisions under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to preclude judicial review, under chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, of final actions taken or required to be taken under this Act.

(d) EXISTING AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act revokes or limits the existing authority of the President, any executive agency, the Senate, the House of Representatives, or any other entity of the Government to publicly disclose records in its possession.

SEC. 10. FUNDING.

Until such time as funds are appropriated to carry out this Act, the President shall use such sums as are available for discretionary use to carry out this Act.

The bill (S. 3191), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CRAPO. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3191), as amended, was passed.

Mr. CRAPO. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELIABLE EMERGENCY ALERT DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3238.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3238) to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CRAPO. I further ask unanimous consent that the Schatz substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4154) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2018” or “READI Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(2) the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission;

(3) the term “Emergency Alert System” means the national public warning system, the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

(4) the term “Wireless Emergency Alert System” means the wireless national public warning system established under the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.), the rules for which are set forth in part 10 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

SEC. 3. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM OFFERINGS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 602(b)(2)(E) of the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) by striking the second and third sentences; and

(2) by striking “other than an alert issued by the President.” and inserting the following: “other than an alert issued by—

“(A) the President; or

“(B) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall adopt regulations to implement the amendment made by subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 4. STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “SECC” means a State Emergency Communications Committee;

(2) the term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States; and

(3) the term “State EAS Plan” means a State Emergency Alert System Plan.

(b) STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall adopt regulations that—

(1) encourage the chief executive of each State—

(A) to establish an SECC if the State does not have an SECC; or

(B) if the State has an SECC, to review the composition and governance of the SECC;

(2) provide that—

(A) each SECC, not less frequently than annually, shall—

(i) meet to review and update its State EAS Plan;

(ii) certify to the Commission that the SECC has met as required under clause (i); and

(iii) submit to the Commission an updated State EAS Plan; and

(B) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Commission receives an updated State EAS Plan under subparagraph (A)(iii), the Commission shall—

(i) approve or disapprove the updated State EAS Plan; and

(ii) notify the chief executive of the State of the Commission’s findings; and

(3) establish a State EAS Plan content checklist for SECCs to use when reviewing and updating a State EAS Plan for submission to the Commission under paragraph (2)(A).

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall consult with the Administrator regarding the adoption of regulations under subsection (b)(3).

SEC. 5. EMERGENCY ALERT BEST PRACTICES.

(a) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop and issue guidance for State, Tribal, and local governments regarding policies and procedures relating to emergency alerts.

(2) CONTENTS.—The guidance developed under paragraph (1) shall include best practices and recommendations for—

(A) the processes and procedures that a State, Tribal, or local government official should use to issue an alert that will use the Emergency Alert System or Wireless Emergency Alert System, including information about the technology used to issue such an alert;

(B) steps that a State, Tribal, or local government official should take to mitigate the possibility of the issuance of a false alert through the Emergency Alert System and related emergency alerting systems;

(C) the process that a State, Tribal, or local government official should adopt to retract a false alert in the case of the issuance of such an alert;

(D) the annual training of State, Tribal, and local alert origination staff related to the—

(i) issuance of alerts;

(ii) avoidance of false alerts; and

(iii) retracting of false alerts; and

(E) a plan by which participants in the Emergency Alert System and the Wireless Emergency Alert System and other relevant State, Tribal, and local government officials may, during an emergency, contact each other, as well as Federal officials, when appropriate and necessary, by telephone, text message, or other means of communication, regarding an alert that has been distributed to the public.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to amend, supplement, or abridge the authority of the Commission under the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) or in any other manner give the Administrator authority over communications service providers participating in the Emergency Alert System or the Wireless Emergency Alert System.

SEC. 6. FALSE ALERT REPORTING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to establish a system to receive from the Administrator or State, Tribal, or local governments reports of false alerts under the Emergency Alert System or the Wireless Emergency

Alert System for the purpose of recording such false alerts and examining their causes.

SEC. 7. REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MESSAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to modify the Emergency Alert System to provide for repeating Emergency Alert System messages while an alert remains pending that is issued by—

(1) the President;

(2) the Administrator; or

(3) any other entity under specified circumstances as determined by the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator.

SEC. 8. INTERNET AND ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES EMERGENCY ALERT EXAMINATION.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and after providing public notice and opportunity for comment, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to examine the feasibility of updating the Emergency Alert System to enable or improve alerts to consumers provided through the internet, including through streaming services.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after completing the inquiry under subsection (a), the Commission shall submit a report on the findings and conclusions of the inquiry to—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

The bill (S. 3238), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 18; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 756; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postclosure on the motion to concur with further amendment to S. 756.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:36 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at 10 a.m.