

raised by the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce regarding the hiring of former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration employees as contractors at the National Weather Service such as the issues raised in the Investigative Report dated June 2, 2015 (OIG–12–0447).

**(c) Annual publication**

For each fiscal year after the fiscal year covered by the report required by subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall, not later than 180 days after the completion of the fiscal year, publish on a publicly accessible Internet website the information described in paragraphs (1) through (8) of subsection (b) for such fiscal year.

(Pub. L. 115–25, title IV, §410, Apr. 18, 2017, 131 Stat. 112.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The General Schedule, referred to in subsec. (b), is set out under section 5332 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**§ 8548. Weather enterprise outreach**

**(a) In general**

The Under Secretary may establish mechanisms for outreach to the weather enterprise—

- (1) to assess the weather forecasts and forecast products provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and
- (2) to determine the highest priority weather forecast needs of the community described in subsection (b).

**(b) Outreach community**

In conducting outreach under subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall contact leading experts and innovators from relevant stakeholders, including the representatives from the following:

- (1) State or local emergency management agencies.
- (2) State agriculture agencies.
- (3) Indian tribes (as defined in section 5304 of title 25) and Native Hawaiians (as defined in section 7517 of title 20).
- (4) The private aerospace industry.
- (5) The private earth observing industry.
- (6) The operational forecasting community.
- (7) The academic community.
- (8) Professional societies that focus on meteorology.
- (9) Such other stakeholder groups as the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

(Pub. L. 115–25, title IV, §412, Apr. 18, 2017, 131 Stat. 113.)

**§ 8549. Hurricane hunter aircraft**

**(a) Backup capability**

The Under Secretary shall acquire backup for the capabilities of the WP–3D Orion and G–IV hurricane aircraft of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that is sufficient to prevent a single point of failure.

**(b) Authority to enter agreements**

In order to carry out subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall negotiate and enter into 1 or

more agreements or contracts, to the extent practicable and necessary, with governmental and non-governmental entities.

**(c) Future technology**

The Under Secretary shall continue the development of Airborne Phased Array Radar under the United States Weather Research Program.

**(d) Authorization of appropriations**

For each of fiscal years 2017 through 2020, support for implementing subsections (a) and (b) is authorized out of funds appropriated to the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

(Pub. L. 115–25, title IV, §413, Apr. 18, 2017, 131 Stat. 114.)

**§ 8550. Improvements to Cooperative Observer Program of National Weather Service**

**(a) In general**

The Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, acting through the National Weather Service, shall improve the Cooperative Observer Program by—

- (1) providing support to—
  - (A) State-coordinated programs relating to the Program; and
  - (B) States and regions where observations provided through the Program are scarce;
- (2) working with State weather service headquarters to increase participation in the Program and to add stations in States and regions described in paragraph (1)(B);
- (3) where feasible, ensuring that data streams from stations that have been contributing data to the Program for more than 50 years are maintained and continually staffed by volunteers;
- (4) prioritizing the recruitment of new volunteers for the Program;
- (5) ensuring that opportunities exist for automated reporting to lessen the burden on volunteers to collect and report data by hand; and
- (6) ensuring that integrated reporting is available for qualitative observations that cannot be automated, such as drought conditions, snow observations, and hazardous weather events, to ensure that volunteers in the Program can report and upload observations quickly and easily.

**(b) Coordination with States and regions**

Not less frequently than every 180 days, the National Weather Service shall coordinate with State and regional offices with respect to the status of Cooperative Observer Program stations.

**(c) Coordination with Federal agencies**

The National Weather Service shall coordinate with other Federal agencies, including the Forest Service, the Department of Agriculture, and the United States Geological Survey, to leverage opportunities to grow the Cooperative Observer Program network and to more effectively use existing infrastructure, weather stations, and staff of the Program.

(Pub. L. 115–423, §8, Jan. 7, 2019, 132 Stat. 5461.)

**Editorial Notes**

## CODIFICATION

This section was enacted as part of the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018, and not as part of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017, and not as part of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 which comprises this chapter.

**CHAPTER 112—SPORTS MEDICINE  
LICENSURE**

Sec.

8601. Protections for covered sports medicine professionals.

**§ 8601. Protections for covered sports medicine professionals**

**(a) In general**

In the case of a covered sports medicine professional who has in effect medical professional liability insurance coverage and provides in a secondary State covered medical services that are within the scope of practice of such professional in the primary State to an athlete or an athletic team (or a staff member of such an athlete or athletic team) pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (c)(4) with respect to such athlete or athletic team—

(1) such medical professional liability insurance coverage shall cover (subject to any related premium adjustments) such professional with respect to such covered medical services provided by the professional in the secondary State to such an individual or team as if such services were provided by such professional in the primary State to such an individual or team; and

(2) to the extent such professional is licensed under the requirements of the primary State to provide such services to such an individual or team, the professional shall be treated as satisfying any licensure requirements of the secondary State to provide such services to such an individual or team to the extent the licensure requirements of the secondary State are substantially similar to the licensure requirements of the primary State.

**(b) Rule of construction**

Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(1) to allow a covered sports medicine professional to provide medical services in the secondary State that exceed the scope of that professional's license in the primary State;

(2) to allow a covered sports medicine professional to provide medical services in the secondary State that exceed the scope of a substantially similar sports medicine professional license in the secondary State;

(3) to supersede any reciprocity agreement in effect between the two States regarding such services or such professionals;

(4) to supersede any interstate compact agreement entered into by the two States regarding such services or such professionals; or

(5) to supersede a licensure exemption the secondary State provides for sports medicine professionals licensed in the primary State.

**(c) Definitions**

In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

**(1) Athlete**

The term “athlete” means—

(A) an individual participating in a sporting event or activity for which the individual may be paid;

(B) an individual participating in a sporting event or activity sponsored or sanctioned by a national governing body; or

(C) an individual for whom a high school or institution of higher education provides a covered sports medicine professional.

**(2) Athletic team**

The term “athletic team” means a sports team—

(A) composed of individuals who are paid to participate on the team;

(B) composed of individuals who are participating in a sporting event or activity sponsored or sanctioned by a national governing body; or

(C) for which a high school or an institution of higher education provides a covered sports medicine professional.

**(3) Covered medical services**

The term “covered medical services” means general medical care, emergency medical care, athletic training, or physical therapy services. Such term does not include care provided by a covered sports medicine professional—

(A) at a health care facility; or

(B) while a health care provider licensed to practice in the secondary State is transporting the injured individual to a health care facility.

**(4) Covered sports medicine professional**

The term “covered sports medicine professional” means a physician, athletic trainer, or other health care professional who—

(A) is licensed to practice in the primary State;

(B) provides covered medical services, pursuant to a written agreement with an athlete, an athletic team, a national governing body, a high school, or an institution of higher education; and

(C) prior to providing the covered medical services described in subparagraph (B), has disclosed the nature and extent of such services to the entity that provides the professional with liability insurance in the primary State.

**(5) Health care facility**

The term “health care facility” means a facility in which medical care, diagnosis, or treatment is provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis. Such term does not include facilities at an arena, stadium, or practice facility, or temporary facilities existing for events where athletes or athletic teams may compete.

**(6) Institution of higher education**

The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 1001 of title 20.

**(7) License**

The term “license” or “licensure”, as applied with respect to a covered sports medicine