

National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act of 2022

U.S. Senators Chris Coons (D-Delaware) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)
U.S. Representatives Scott Peters (D-California) and María Elvira Salazar (R-Florida)

Supporting a unified national vision to help vulnerable communities build resilience to climate change

Frontline communities face increasing risk from a range of climate hazards that threaten human health, property, and critical infrastructure. Federal agencies provide essential resources and services for local climate adaptation efforts, but often operate independently of one another. The siloed nature of federal resilience operations creates inefficiencies and unnecessary burdens for non-federal partners attempting to access these resources and services. As Congress continues to increase funding for climate adaptation, improved federal coordination is necessary to ensure investments maximize the resilience benefits for vulnerable communities and infrastructure.

The *National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act of 2022* (the NCARS Act) would require the federal government to produce a National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy (Strategy) that presents a unified federal plan to increase the resilience of frontline communities in the United States. The NCARS Act would also require an Implementation Plan to ensure the Strategy is effectively translated into improved and streamlined federal adaptation operations. The NCARS Act would improve federal resilience efforts by:

Requiring the production of a whole-of-government National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy and Implementation Plan. The Strategy and Implementation Plan would be updated triennially and would be followed by a GAO report to provide accountability and to help inform future iterations of the Strategy.

Authorizing a Chief Resilience Officer position in the White House to lead the national climate adaptation effort and Strategy development process, following the model adopted by nearly a dozen states, including Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina.

Supporting the establishment of up to five interagency resilience Working Groups and a non-federal Partners Council to assist with the production of the Strategy and strengthen lines of communication about resilience between federal agencies; state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments; non-governmental organizations; academics; and the private sector.

Driving efficient and equitable resilience solutions by developing strategies to ensure resilience operations and policies minimize redundancies across agencies and equitably support the most vulnerable frontline communities that are often under-resourced for adaptation efforts.

The NCARS Act would authorize \$2 million annually and would sunset after the third iteration of the Strategy and GAO report or at the end of fiscal year 2032, whichever occurs first.

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