

The Federal Agency Climate PREP Act

Introduced by:

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Climate change is one of the most alarming and urgent global crises defining the modern era. It demands prioritization and action by every government worldwide. For the United States to be effective in this fight, the federal government—the largest employer in the nation and biggest purchaser of goods and services in the world—must lead by prioritizing strategic planning.

The Federal Agency Climate Planning, Resilience, and Enhanced Preparedness Act, or the Federal Agency Climate PREP Act, is modeled on two Executive Orders issued by President Barack Obama to build climate change preparedness, mitigation, and resilience into all aspects of federal government operations. It would require each agency to create a climate change adaptation plan that includes:

- Assessments of climate change-related risks to agency missions, operations, and programs;
- Efforts to manage these risks and build resilience with future milestones in mind;
- Strategies for addressing risks that threaten vital missions and operations;
- Alternatives for agency actions that may exacerbate climate change threats; and
- Opportunities to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on frontline communities and vulnerable populations.

The Federal Agency Climate PREP Act also would establish the Council on Federal Agency Climate PREP, an interagency council that would guide, coordinate, and track implementation of federal actions on climate change preparedness and resilience. Working across the federal government and in partnership with state and local governments, academic and research institutions, and the private and nonprofit sectors, the council would:

- Assist with identification and assessment of climate change impacts;
- Advise on cost-effective methods to increase preparedness and resiliency of communities, critical economic sectors, infrastructure, and natural resources;
- Integrate climate change science into policies and planning; and
- Implement the recommendations of a new State and Local Leaders Task Force established to inform federal efforts to support climate change preparedness and resilience.

An effective federal response to climate change begins with evidence-based planning and operations that recognize the magnitude of the threat and respond accordingly. American lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, security, and prosperity depend on coordinated, strategic, whole-of-government anticipation, preparation, mitigation, and adaptation in the face of the climate crisis.