

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5608

To provide for the testing of chronic wasting disease and other infectious disease in deer and elk herds, to establish the Interagency Task Force on Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 10, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the testing of chronic wasting disease and other infectious disease in deer and elk herds, to establish the Interagency Task Force on Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Comprehensive Wild-
5 life Disease Testing Acceleration Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term
2 “chronic wasting disease” means the animal disease
3 that afflicts deer and elk—

4 (A) that is a transmissible disease of the
5 nervous system resulting in distinctive lesions in
6 the brain; and

7 (B) that belongs to the group of diseases—

8 (i) that is known as transmissible
9 spongiform encephalopathies; and

10 (ii) that includes scrapie, bovine
11 spongiform encephalopathy, and
12 Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease.

13 (2) EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC DISEASE.—The
14 term “epizootic hemorrhagic disease” means the ani-
15 mal disease afflicting deer and other wild
16 ruminants—

17 (A) that is an insect-borne transmissible
18 viral disease; and

19 (B) that results in spontaneous
20 hemorrhaging in the muscles and organs of the
21 afflicted animals.

22 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (4) **TASK FORCE.**—The term “Task Force”
2 means the Interagency Task Force on Epizootic
3 Hemorrhagic Disease established by section 4(a).

4 **SEC. 3. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SAMPLING GUIDE-**
5 **LINES AND TESTING PROTOCOL.**

6 (a) **SAMPLING GUIDELINES.**—

7 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
9 shall issue guidelines for the collection of animal tis-
10 sue by Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies for
11 testing for chronic wasting disease.

12 (2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Guidelines issued under
13 paragraph (1) shall—

14 (A) include procedures for the stabilization
15 of tissue samples for transport to a laboratory
16 for assessment; and

17 (B) be updated as the Secretary deter-
18 mines to be appropriate.

19 (b) **TESTING PROTOCOL.**—Not later than 30 days
20 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
21 issue a protocol to be used in the laboratory assessment
22 of samples of animal tissue that may be contaminated with
23 chronic wasting disease.

24 (c) **LABORATORY CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION**
25 **PROGRAM.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 shall establish a program for the certification and
4 inspection of Federal and non-Federal laboratories
5 (including private laboratories) under which the Sec-
6 retary shall authorize laboratories certified under the
7 program to conduct tests for chronic wasting dis-
8 ease.

9 (2) VERIFICATION.—In carrying out the pro-
10 gram established under paragraph (1), the Secretary
11 may require that the results of any tests conducted
12 by private laboratories shall be verified by Federal
13 laboratories.

14 (d) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TESTS.—Not later than
15 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary shall accelerate research into—

17 (1) the development of animal tests for chronic
18 wasting disease, including—

19 (A) tests for live animals; and

20 (B) field diagnostic tests; and

21 (2) the development of testing protocols that re-
22 duce laboratory test processing time.

1 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON EPIZOOTIC HEMOR-**
2 **RHAGIC DISEASE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Federal
4 interagency task force to be known as the “Interagency
5 Task Force on Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease” to coordi-
6 nate activities to prevent the outbreak of epizootic hemor-
7 rhagic disease and related diseases in the United States.

8 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be com-
9 posed of—

10 (1) the Secretary, who shall serve as the chair-
11 person of the Task Force;

12 (2) the Secretary of the Interior;

13 (3) the Secretary of Commerce;

14 (4) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
15 ices;

16 (5) the Secretary of the Treasury;

17 (6) the Commissioner of Food and Drugs;

18 (7) the Director of the National Institutes of
19 Health;

20 (8) the Director of the Centers for Disease
21 Control and Prevention;

22 (9) the Commissioner of Customs; and

23 (10) the heads of any other Federal agencies
24 that the President determines to be appropriate.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Task Force shall submit to
3 Congress a report that—

4 (1) describes any activities that are being car-
5 ried out, or that will be carried out, to prevent—

6 (A) the outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic
7 disease and related diseases in the United
8 States; and

9 (B) the spread or transmission of epizootic
10 hemorrhagic disease and related diseases to
11 dairy cattle or other livestock; and

12 (2) includes recommendations for—

13 (A) legislation that should be enacted or
14 regulations that should be promulgated to pre-
15 vent the outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic dis-
16 ease and related diseases in the United States;
17 and

18 (B) coordination of the surveillance of and
19 diagnostic testing for epizootic hemorrhagic dis-
20 ease, chronic wasting disease, and related dis-
21 eases.

1 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

2 To carry out this Act, the Secretary may use funds
3 made available to the Secretary for administrative pur-
4 poses.

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