

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2636

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to State and tribal governments to assist State and tribal efforts to manage and control the spread of chronic wasting disease in deer and elk herds, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. McINNIS, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to State and tribal governments to assist State and tribal efforts to manage and control the spread of chronic wasting disease in deer and elk herds, 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 “Chronic Wasting Dis-
5 ease Financial Assistance Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION AND FINDINGS.**

2 (a) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE DEFINED.—In this
3 Act, the term “chronic wasting disease” means the animal
4 disease afflicting deer and elk that—

5 (1) is a transmissible disease of the nervous
6 system resulting in distinctive lesions in the brain;
7 and

8 (2) belongs to the group of diseases known as
9 transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, which
10 group includes scrapie, bovine spongiform
11 encephalopathy, and Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease.

12 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

13 (1) The States retain undisputed primacy and
14 policy-making authority with regard to wildlife man-
15 agement, and nothing in this Act interferes with or
16 otherwise affects the primacy of the States in man-
17 aging wildlife generally, or managing, surveying, and
18 monitoring the incidence of chronic wasting disease
19 in animal populations.

20 (2) Chronic wasting disease is a fundamental
21 threat to the health and vibrancy of deer and elk
22 populations, and the increased occurrence of chronic
23 wasting disease in the United States necessitates
24 government action to manage and eradicate this le-
25 thal disease.

1 (2) States that have expended State funds for
2 chronic wasting disease management, monitoring,
3 surveillance, and research, with additional priority
4 given to those States that have shown the greatest
5 financial commitment to managing, monitoring, sur-
6 veying, and researching chronic wasting disease.

7 (3) States with comprehensive and integrated
8 policies and programs focused on chronic wasting
9 disease management between involved State wildlife
10 and agricultural agencies and tribal governments,
11 with additional priority given to States that have in-
12 tegrated the programs and policies of all involved
13 agencies related to chronic wasting disease manage-
14 ment.

15 (4) States that are seeking to develop a rapid
16 response capacity to address outbreaks of chronic
17 wasting disease, whether occurring in States in
18 which chronic wasting disease is already found or
19 States with first infections, for the purpose of con-
20 taining the disease in any new area of infection.

21 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated \$7,500,000 to carry out
23 this section.

1 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR STATES WITH CHRONIC WASTING DIS-**
2 **EASE OUTBREAKS.**

3 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the In-
4 terior shall make grants to State wildlife management
5 agencies to assist States in responding to chronic wasting
6 disease outbreaks in wild cervids.

7 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—A wildlife management agency of
8 a State whose comprehensive wildlife conservation plan in-
9 clude chronic wasting disease management activities is eli-
10 gible for a grant under this section.

11 (c) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—In determining the
12 amount of grant funds to be provided to eligible applicants
13 under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize applicants
14 based on the following criteria:

15 (1) State expenditures on chronic wasting dis-
16 ease management, monitoring, surveillance, and re-
17 search in response to management of an on-going
18 outbreak.

19 (2) The number of chronic wasting disease
20 cases detected in the State.

21 (3) The wild cervid population of the State.

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry
24 out this section.

1 **SEC. 5. TRIBAL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT**
2 **GRANTS.**

3 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the In-
4 terior shall make grants to tribal wildlife management
5 agencies to assist Indian tribes in developing and imple-
6 menting long term management strategies to address
7 chronic wasting disease in wild cervids.

8 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—A wildlife management agency of
9 an Indian tribe whose comprehensive wildlife conservation
10 plan include chronic wasting disease management activi-
11 ties is eligible for a grant under this section.

12 (c) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—In determining the
13 amount of grant funds to be provided to eligible applicants
14 under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize applicants
15 based on the following criteria:

16 (1) Tribal governments managing lands on
17 which cervids with chronic wasting disease have been
18 detected, or managing lands located adjacent or in
19 proximity to lands on which cervids with chronic
20 wasting disease have been detected.

21 (2) Tribal governments that have expended
22 tribal funds for chronic wasting disease manage-
23 ment, monitoring, surveillance, and research, with
24 additional priority given to tribal governments that
25 have shown the greatest financial commitment to

1 managing, monitoring, and surveying chronic wast-
2 ing disease.

3 (3) Tribal governments with cooperative ar-
4 rangements with Federal and State wildlife and ag-
5 ricultural agencies and State governments, with ad-
6 ditional priority given to tribal governments that are
7 working with other involved agencies on issues of
8 chronic wasting disease management.

9 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 to carry out
11 this section.

12 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

13 The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out this Act
14 acting through the Director, United States Fish and Wild-
15 life Service. Funds appropriated to carry out this Act shall
16 be administered through the Federal Assistance Program
17 in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Not more
18 than three percent of such funds may be expended for ad-
19 ministrative expenses of the United States Fish and Wild-
20 life Service to carry out this Act.

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