

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2248

To establish a grant program to assist States in inspecting hotel rooms
for bed bugs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 establish a grant program to assist States in inspecting
hotel rooms for bed bugs, 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 “Don’t Let the Bed
5 Bugs Bite Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) on February 12, 2008, a thorough inspec-
2 tion of a hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire, found
3 that 16 of 117 rooms were infested with bedbugs;

4 (2) *cimex lectularius*, commonly known as bed
5 bugs, travel through the ventilation systems in
6 multi-unit establishments causing exponential infes-
7 tations;

8 (3) female bedbugs can lay up to 5 eggs in a
9 day and 500 during a lifetime;

10 (4) bedbug populations in the United States
11 have increased by 500 percent in the past few years;

12 (5) in 2004, New York City had 377 bedbug
13 violations and from July to November of 2005, a 5-
14 month span, there were 449 violations reported in
15 the city, an alarming increase in infestations over a
16 short period of time;

17 (6) in a study of 700 hotel rooms between 2002
18 and 2006, 25 percent of hotels were found to be in
19 need of bedbug treatment;

20 (7) bed bugs possess all of the necessary pre-
21 requisites for being capable of passing diseases from
22 one host to another; and

23 (8) research on the public health implications of
24 bed bugs and their potential for spread of infectious
25 disease is not current.

1 **SEC. 3. BED BUG INSPECTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) ADMINISTRATION; AMOUNT.—The Secretary of
3 Commerce, in cooperation with the Travel and Tourism
4 Advisory Board, may provide grants to an eligible State
5 to assist such State in carrying out the inspections de-
6 scribed in subsection (c). The grants shall be in amounts
7 determined by the Secretary, taking into consideration the
8 relative needs of the State.

9 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible for a grant
10 under this Act if the State has established a program
11 whereby—

12 (1) not fewer than 20 percent of rooms in lodg-
13 ing facilities in such State are inspected annually for
14 *cimex lectularius*, commonly known as the bed bug;
15 and

16 (2) inspections are conducted by individuals
17 who meet the minimum competency standard or re-
18 quirement for inspecting or treating rooms in lodg-
19 ing facilities for bed bugs, as adopted by the State
20 agency charged with regulating pest management
21 activities.

22 (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of funding
23 for such a program shall not exceed 80 percent.

24 (d) USE OF GRANTS.—A State may use a grant re-
25 ceived under this Act to—

1 (1) conduct inspections of lodging facilities for
2 cimex lectularius, including transportation, lodging,
3 and meal expenses for inspectors;

4 (2) train inspection personnel;

5 (3) contract with a commercial applicator, as
6 defined in section 2(e) of the Federal Insecticide,
7 Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136(e)),
8 to inspect and treat lodging facilities for cimex
9 lectularius; and

10 (4) educate the proprietors and staff of lodging
11 establishments about methods to prevent and eradi-
12 cate cimex lectularius.

13 (e) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this
14 Act, an eligible State shall submit an application to the
15 Secretary of Commerce in such form and containing such
16 information as the Secretary shall determine.

17 (f) DEFINITION OF LODGING FACILITY.—For pur-
18 poses of this Act and the requirement under subsection
19 (b) for State programs receiving funding under this Act,
20 the term “lodging facility” means any individual hotel,
21 motel, or inn that makes available for commercial lodging
22 more than 10 individual rooms.

23 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of fis-

1 cal years 2010 through 2013 to the Secretary of Com-
2 merce for the grants authorized under this Act.

3 **SEC. 4. ADDING BED BUG PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**
4 **TO PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY PLANS.**

5 Paragraph (5) of section 5A(d) of the United States
6 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437e-1(d)(5)) is
7 amended by inserting “and bed bugs” after “cock-
8 roaches”.

9 **SEC. 5. BED BUG PREVENTION AND CONTROL UNDER THE**
10 **PREVENTATIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERV-**
11 **ICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

12 Section 1904(a)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service
13 Act (42 U.S.C. 300w-3(a)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting
14 “and bed bugs” after “rodents”.

15 **SEC. 6. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVEN-**
16 **TION INVESTIGATION AND REPORT.**

17 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall
18 investigate the public health implications of bed bugs on
19 lodging and housing. The investigation shall specifically
20 consider the impacts on mental health of bed bugs, their
21 potential for spreading infectious disease, and contributing
22 to other diseases such as asthma. The Centers for Disease
23 Control and Prevention shall report their findings and rec-
24 ommend any potential solutions to Congress not later than
25 December 31, 2010.

1 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 The Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report
3 to Congress not later than 3 years after the issuance of
4 the first grant authorized by section 3 of this Act, which
5 shall contain an assessment of the effectiveness of the bed
6 bug inspection grant program.

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