

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3644

To authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. JONES, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. MANCHIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, 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 Transmission in Cervidae Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **ACADEMY.**—The term “Academy” means
9 the National Academy of Sciences.

1 (2) CERVID.—The term “cervid” means any
2 species within the family Cervidae.

3 (3) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term
4 “chronic wasting disease” means the animal disease
5 afflicting deer, elk, and moose populations that—

6 (A) is a transmissible disease of the nerv-
7 ous system resulting in distinctive lesions in the
8 brain; and

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

13 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-
15 ministrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-
16 tion Service.

17 **SEC. 3. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN**
18 **CERVIDAE RESOURCE STUDY.**

19 (a) STUDY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter
21 into an arrangement with the Academy under which
22 the Academy shall conduct, and submit to the Sec-
23 retary a report describing the findings of, a special
24 resource study to identify the predominant pathways
25 and mechanisms of the transmission of chronic wast-

1 ing disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations
2 of cervids in the United States.

3 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The arrangement under
4 paragraph (1) shall provide that the actual expenses
5 incurred by the Academy in conducting the study
6 under paragraph (1) shall be paid by the Secretary.

7 (b) CONTENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study under
8 subsection (a) shall—

9 (1) with respect to wild, captive, and farmed
10 populations of cervids in the United States, iden-
11 tify—

12 (A)(i) the pathways and mechanisms for
13 the transmission of chronic wasting disease
14 within live cervid populations and cervid prod-
15 ucts;

16 (ii) the infection rates for each pathway
17 and mechanism identified under clause (i); and

18 (iii) the relative frequency of transmission
19 of each pathway and mechanism identified
20 under clause (i);

21 (B)(i) anthropogenic and environmental
22 factors contributing to new chronic wasting dis-
23 ease emergence events;

1 (ii) the development of geographical areas
2 with increased chronic wasting disease preva-
3 lence; and

4 (iii) the overall geographical patterns of
5 chronic wasting disease distribution;

6 (C) significant gaps in current scientific
7 knowledge regarding the transmission pathways
8 and mechanisms identified under subparagraph
9 (A)(i); and

10 (D) for prioritization the scientific research
11 projects that will address the knowledge gaps
12 identified under subparagraph (C); and

13 (2) review and compare science-based best prac-
14 tices, standards, and guidance regarding the man-
15 agement of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive,
16 and farmed populations of cervids in the United
17 States that have been developed by—

18 (A) the National Chronic Wasting Disease
19 Herd Certification Program of the Animal and
20 Plant Health Inspection Service; and

21 (B) State wildlife and agricultural agen-
22 cies, in the case of practices, standards, and
23 guidance that provide practical, science-based
24 recommendations to State and Federal agencies
25 for minimizing or eliminating the risk of trans-

1 mission of chronic wasting disease in the
2 United States.

3 (c) DEADLINE.—The study under subsection (a) shall
4 be completed not later than 180 days after the date on
5 which funds are first made available for the study.

6 (d) DATA SHARING.—The Secretary shall share with
7 the entity conducting the study under subsection (a) data
8 and access to databases on chronic wasting disease under
9 the jurisdiction of Veterinary Services Program of the Ani-
10 mal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

11 (e) REPORT.—On completion of the study, the Sec-
12 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
13 trition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
14 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that
15 describes—

16 (1) the findings of the study; and

17 (2) any conclusions and recommendations that
18 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

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