

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1919

To amend the Animal Health Protection Act to provide chronic wasting disease support for States and coordinated response efforts, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, and Mr. WOMACK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Animal Health Protection Act to provide chronic wasting disease support for States and coordinated response efforts, 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 “Detection, Enhanced  
5 Education, and Response Act of 2019” or the “DEER  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SUPPORT FOR STATES**  
2 **AND COORDINATED RESPONSE EFFORTS.**

3 The Animal Health Protection Act is amended by in-  
4 serting after section 10409A (7 U.S.C. 8308a) the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 10409B. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SUPPORT FOR**  
7 **STATES AND COORDINATED RESPONSE EF-**  
8 **FORTS.**

9 “(a) DEFINITION OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—  
10 In this section, the term ‘chronic wasting disease’ means  
11 the animal disease afflicting deer, elk, and moose popu-  
12 lations that—

13 “(1) is a transmissible disease of the nervous  
14 system resulting in distinctive lesions in the brain;  
15 and

16 “(2) belongs to the group of diseases known as  
17 transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, which in-  
18 cludes scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy,  
19 and Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease.

20 “(b) SUPPORT FOR STATE EFFORTS TO MANAGE  
21 AND CONTROL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—

22 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Sec-  
23 retary shall allocate funds made available under sub-  
24 section (e) directly to State departments of wildlife  
25 and State departments of agriculture to further de-

1       velop and implement chronic wasting disease surveil-  
2       lance, testing, management, and response activities.

3           “(2) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—In determining  
4       the amounts to be allocated to State departments of  
5       wildlife and agriculture, the Secretary shall give pri-  
6       ority to States that—

7           “(A) have experienced a recent incidence of  
8       chronic wasting disease;

9           “(B) have a chronic wasting disease moni-  
10       toring and surveillance program; and

11          “(C) have a diagnostic laboratory system  
12       certified for chronic wasting disease testing.

13       “(c) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MULTIAGENCY  
14       TASK FORCE.—

15          “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
16       lish a multiagency task force that shall—

17          “(A) establish a unified response frame-  
18       work to better position the Department of Agri-  
19       culture to respond to the growing threat of  
20       chronic wasting disease;

21          “(B) provide a single Federal point of con-  
22       tact for Federal and State entities that work on  
23       chronic wasting disease issues;

24          “(C) determine funding priorities and allo-  
25       cation of resources; and

1           “(D) disseminate information to the public  
2 relating to chronic wasting disease.

3           “(2) COMPOSITION.—The multiagency task  
4 force established under paragraph (1) shall—

5           “(A) be led by the Administrator of the  
6 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;  
7 and

8           “(B) include 1 or more representatives  
9 from each of the following:

10           “(i) The Agricultural Research Serv-  
11 ice.

12           “(ii) The National Institute of Food  
13 and Agriculture.

14           “(iii) The Forest Service.

15           “(iv) The United States Fish and  
16 Wildlife Service.

17           “(v) State departments of wildlife.

18           “(vi) State departments of agri-  
19 culture.

20           “(vii) Institutions of higher education.

21           “(d) MID-SOUTH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN  
22 WILDLIFE DISEASES.—

23           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
24 a grant to a land-grant college or university (as de-  
25 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural

1 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of  
2 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) eligible to receive funds  
3 under the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361a et  
4 seq.) and the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 et  
5 seq.) to establish a policy research center to be  
6 known as the ‘Mid-South Center of Excellence in  
7 Wildlife Diseases’.

8 “(2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall award the  
9 grant under paragraph (1) to a land-grant college or  
10 university that—

11 “(A) is located in a State—

12 “(i) in the Southeast area of the Agri-  
13 cultural Research Service; and

14 “(ii) that has confirmed cases of  
15 chronic wasting disease in the State;

16 “(B) has an established whitetail deer re-  
17 search program with significant research his-  
18 tory in deer ecology, movements, genetics, and  
19 management;

20 “(C) has a college of veterinary medicine;  
21 and

22 “(D) has technical and scientific expertise  
23 relevant to chronic wasting disease through the  
24 university extension service and college of vet-  
25 erinary medicine.

1           “(3) ACTIVITIES.—The Mid-South Center of  
2           Excellence in Wildlife Diseases established under  
3           paragraph (1) shall—

4                   “(A) have a special research focus on  
5                   chronic wasting disease in whitetail deer;

6                   “(B) serve as the lead institution of higher  
7                   education in collaborating with the multiagency  
8                   task force established under subsection (c)(1);

9                   “(C) establish partnerships with other uni-  
10                  versities with expertise relevant to chronic wast-  
11                  ing disease research;

12                  “(D) develop an epidemiological research  
13                  program focused on chronic wasting disease;

14                  “(E) expand chronic wasting disease sur-  
15                  veillance and testing capacity; and

16                  “(F) improve current chronic wasting dis-  
17                  ease ecology, movements, transmission, and  
18                  management research.

19           “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
20           are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
21           essary to carry out this section.”.

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