

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 877

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2019

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HUDSON, and Mrs. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, 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 “Modernizing the Pitt-  
5 man-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The first section of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife  
8 Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669) is amended by adding  
9 at the end the following: “One of the purposes of this Act

1 is to provide financial and technical assistance to the  
2 States for the promotion of hunting and recreational  
3 shooting.”.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 Section 2 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restora-  
6 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through  
8 (8) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively;  
9 and

10 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(2) for the purposes of determining the num-  
13 ber of paid hunting-license holders in a State, the  
14 term ‘fiscal year’ means the fiscal year or license  
15 year of the State;

16 “(3) the term ‘hunter recruitment and rec-  
17 reational shooter recruitment’ means any activity or  
18 project to recruit or retain hunters and recreational  
19 shooters, including by—

20 “(A) outreach and communications as a  
21 means—

22 “(i) to improve communications with  
23 hunters, recreational shooters, and the  
24 general public with respect to hunting and  
25 recreational shooting opportunities;

1 “(ii) to reduce barriers to participa-  
2 tion in these activities;

3 “(iii) to advance the adoption of  
4 sound hunting and recreational shooting  
5 practices;

6 “(iv) to promote conservation and the  
7 responsible use of the wildlife resources of  
8 the United States; and

9 “(v) to further safety in hunting and  
10 recreational shooting;

11 “(B) providing education, mentoring, and  
12 field demonstrations;

13 “(C) enhancing access for hunting and rec-  
14 reational shooting, including through range con-  
15 struction; and

16 “(D) providing education to the public  
17 about the role of hunting and recreational  
18 shooting in funding wildlife conservation;”.

19 **SEC. 4. APPORTIONMENT OF AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.**

20 (a) APPORTIONMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES.—The first  
21 subsection (c) of section 4 of the Pittman-Robertson Wild-  
22 life Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c) is amended—

23 (1) by inserting “APPORTIONMENT OF REVE-  
24 NUES FROM PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, BOWS, AND AR-  
25 ROWS.—” after the enumerator;

1 (2) by striking “One-half” and inserting the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
4 ½”;

5 (3) by striking “: *Provided, That*” and inserting  
6 a period;

7 (4) by striking “each State shall be apportioned  
8 not more than 3 per centum and not less than 1 per  
9 centum of such revenues” and inserting the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(2) CONDITION.—The amount apportioned to  
12 each State under paragraph (1) shall be not greater  
13 than 3 percent and not less than 1 percent of the  
14 revenues described in such paragraph”;

15 (5) by striking “For the purpose” and inserting  
16 the following:

17 “(3) POPULATION DETERMINATION.—For the  
18 purpose”; and

19 (6) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—In addition to other uses  
21 authorized under this Act, amounts apportioned  
22 under this subsection may be used for hunter re-  
23 cruitment and recreational shooter recruitment.”.

24 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 4 of the Pitt-  
25 man-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c)

1 is amended by redesignating the second subsection (c) and  
2 subsection (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

3 **SEC. 5. EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE**  
4 **AREAS AND RESOURCES.**

5 Section 8 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restora-  
6 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 669g) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), in the third sentence, by  
8 striking “and public relations”; and

9 (2) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by  
10 striking “, as a part of such program”.

11 **SEC. 6. FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFE-**  
12 **TY PROGRAM GRANTS.**

13 Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Pittman-Robertson Wild-  
14 life Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–1(a)(1)(A)) is  
15 amended—

16 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;  
17 and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(v) the enhancement of hunter re-  
20 cruitment and recreational shooter recruit-  
21 ment; and”.

22 **SEC. 7. MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11 of the Pittman-Robert-  
24 son Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–2) is  
25 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

2 (A) by striking “Not more than” and in-  
3 serting the following:

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not more than”; and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(B) AVAILABILITY FOR HUNTER AND  
7 RECREATIONAL SHOOTER GRANTS.—Not more  
8 than \$5,000,000 of the revenues covered into  
9 the fund from any tax imposed under section  
10 4161(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
11 for a fiscal year shall be available to the Sec-  
12 retary exclusively for making hunter recruit-  
13 ment and recreational shooter recruitment  
14 grants that promote a national hunting and  
15 shooting sport recruitment program, including  
16 related communication and outreach activi-  
17 ties.”;

18 (2) in the matter preceding subsection  
19 (b)(3)(A), by striking “International”;

20 (3) in the matter preceding subsection  
21 (c)(2)(A)(i), by striking “International”;

22 (4) in subsection (c)(2)(A)(i), by inserting “or  
23 to recreational shooting activities” after “wildlife”;  
24 and

1           (5) in subsection (d), by inserting “or to rec-  
2           reational shooting activities” after “wildlife”.

3           (b) STUDY.—Not later than 10 years after the date  
4 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior,  
5 acting through the Director of the United States Fish and  
6 Wildlife Service, shall—

7           (1) review and evaluate the effects of the funds  
8           made available under subparagraph (B) of section  
9           11(a)(1) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restora-  
10          tion Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–2(a)(1)) (as added by sub-  
11          section (a)(1)(B)) on funds available for wildlife con-  
12          servation; and

13          (2) submit a report describing the results of the  
14          review and evaluation under paragraph (1) to—

15                 (A) the Committee on Environment and  
16                 Public Works of the Senate; and

17                 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources  
18                 of the House of Representatives.

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