

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 97

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, 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 “Rescuing Animals
5 With Rewards Act of 2019” or the “RAWR Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Wildlife trafficking is a major transnational
2 crime that is estimated to generate over \$10 billion
3 a year in illegal profits and which is increasingly
4 perpetrated by organized, sophisticated criminal en-
5 terprises, including known terrorist organizations.

6 (2) Wildlife trafficking not only threatens en-
7 dangered species worldwide, but also jeopardizes
8 local security, spreads disease, undermines rule of
9 law, fuels corruption, and damages economic devel-
10 opment.

11 (3) Combating wildlife trafficking requires a co-
12 ordinated and sustained approach at the global, re-
13 gional, national, and local levels.

14 (4) Congress stated in the Eliminate, Neu-
15 tralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016
16 that it is the policy of the United States to take im-
17 mediate actions to stop the illegal global trade in
18 wildlife and wildlife products and associated transna-
19 tional organized crime.

20 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that the Department of State’s rewards program is
22 a powerful tool in combating sophisticated international
23 crime and that the Department of State and Federal law
24 enforcement should work in concert to offer rewards that
25 target wildlife traffickers.

1 **SEC. 3. REWARDS FOR JUSTICE.**

2 Subparagraph (B) of section 36(k)(5) of the State
3 Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.
4 2708(k)(5)) is amended by inserting “wildlife trafficking
5 (as defined by section 2(12) of the Eliminate, Neutralize,
6 and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (16 U.S.C.
7 7601(12); Public Law 114–231)) and” after “includes”.

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