

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2081

To amend the Animal Health Protection Act to establish a grant program for research on chronic wasting disease, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. VELA, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CUELLAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Animal Health Protection Act to establish a grant program for research on chronic wasting disease, 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 Research Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESEARCH GRANT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Health Protection
4 Act is amended by inserting after section 10409A (7
5 U.S.C. 8308a) the following:

6 **“SEC. 10409B. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESEARCH**
7 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

9 “(1) a focus on research into the transmission
10 of, resistance to, and epidemiology of chronic wast-
11 ing disease is needed to inform future policies to
12 combat the disease and ensure the health of cervid
13 populations;

14 “(2) because States have diverse policies for ad-
15 dressing chronic wasting disease, the Federal Gov-
16 ernment should coordinate financial and technical
17 support to States, State departments of agriculture,
18 institutions of higher education, and research cen-
19 ters conducting scientific research on chronic wast-
20 ing disease;

21 “(3) under current policies, chronic wasting dis-
22 ease remains a systemic threat to cervids; and

23 “(4) scientific advances that lead to the ability
24 to stop transmission of chronic wasting disease are
25 needed to ensure the long-term viability of cervids.

26 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term
2 ‘chronic wasting disease’ means the animal disease
3 afflicting deer, elk, and moose populations that—

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

7 “(B) belongs to the group of diseases
8 known as transmissible spongiform encephalop-
9 athies, which includes scrapie, bovine spongi-
10 form encephalopathy, and Cruetzfeldt-Jakob
11 disease.

12 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
13 tity’ means—

14 “(A) a State department of agriculture;

15 “(B) a Tribal research facility;

16 “(C) a Tribal department of agriculture;

17 “(D) an institution of higher education (as
18 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
19 Act (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

20 “(E) a research center conducting sci-
21 entific research on chronic wasting disease.

22 “(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
24 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
25 retary shall establish a program under which the

1 Secretary shall award grants on a competitive basis
2 to eligible entities to conduct research on the trans-
3 mission of, resistance to, and diagnosis of chronic
4 wasting disease.

5 “(2) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—In awarding
6 grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give
7 priority to eligible entities that shall conduct re-
8 search relating to—

9 “(A) methods and products—

10 “(i) to effectively detect infectious
11 chronic wasting disease prions in live
12 cervids, the environment, and inorganic
13 surfaces; and

14 “(ii) to decontaminate those infectious
15 prions;

16 “(B) the long-term suppression or eradi-
17 cation of chronic wasting disease; or

18 “(C) determination markers for genetic re-
19 sistance to chronic wasting disease and strate-
20 gies for using genetic resistance to combat the
21 spread of the disease.

22 “(3) NUMBER OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum ex-
24 tent practicable, subject to subparagraph (B),
25 the Secretary shall select not fewer than 5 and

1 not more than 10 eligible entities to receive
2 grants under paragraph (1).

3 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may
4 award grants under paragraph (1) to fewer
5 than 5 eligible entities if not more than 5 eligi-
6 ble entities have submitted applications for a
7 grant.

8 “(4) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS BY ELIGIBLE EN-
9 TITIES.—Not greater than 15 percent of the amount
10 of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) may be
11 used by an eligible entity for administrative costs in-
12 curred by the eligible entity in carrying out the re-
13 search described in that paragraph.

14 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
16 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
17 tion \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal
18 year thereafter, to remain available until expended.

19 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
20 may use not greater than 3 percent of the funds
21 made available under paragraph (1) for administra-
22 tive costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out
23 this section.

24 “(e) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall interfere
25 with or otherwise affect the authority of the Federal Gov-

1 ernment or States to manage wildlife and livestock, includ-
2 ing managing, surveying, and monitoring the incidence of
3 chronic wasting disease.”.

4 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 10403(8) of
5 the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8302(8)) is
6 amended by striking “(25 U.S.C. 450b)” and inserting
7 “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”.

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