

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6197

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Rescuing Animals  
3 With Rewards Act of 2018” or the “RAWR Act”.

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

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

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

11 (2) Wildlife trafficking not only threatens en-  
12 dangered species worldwide, but also jeopardizes  
13 local security, spreads disease, undermines rule of  
14 law, fuels corruption, and damages economic devel-  
15 opment.

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

19 (4) Congress stated in the Eliminate, Neu-  
20 tralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016  
21 that it is the policy of the United States to take im-  
22 mediate actions to stop the illegal global trade in  
23 wildlife and wildlife products and associated  
24 transnational organized crime.

25 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
26 gress that the Department of State’s rewards program is

1 a powerful tool in combating sophisticated international  
2 crime and that the Department of State and Federal law  
3 enforcement should work in concert to offer rewards that  
4 target wildlife traffickers.

5 **SEC. 3. REWARDS FOR JUSTICE.**

6 Subparagraph (B) of section 36(k)(5) of the State  
7 Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.  
8 2708(k)(5)) is amended by inserting “wildlife trafficking  
9 (as defined by section 2(12) of the Eliminate, Neutralize,  
10 and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (16 U.S.C.  
11 7601(12); Public Law 114–231)) and” after “includes”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 12,  
2018.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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