

Union Calendar No. 218

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2793

[Report No. 117–296]

To reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act, to authorize States to use funds from that Act for administrative purposes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2021

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Ms. DEAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

APRIL 25, 2022

Additional sponsors: Mr. DELGADO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. HIMES

APRIL 25, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 22, 2021]

A BILL

To reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act, to authorize States to use funds from that Act for administrative purposes, 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 “Highlands Conservation*
 5 *Reauthorization Act of 2021”.*

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHLANDS CONSERVA-**
 7 **TION ACT.**

8 *The Highlands Conservation Act (Public Law 108–*
 9 *421; 118 Stat. 2375) is amended—*

10 *(1) in section 3—*

11 *(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as*
 12 *follows:*

13 *“(1) HIGHLANDS REGION.—The term ‘Highlands*
 14 *region’ means—*

15 *“(A) the area depicted on the map entitled*
 16 *‘The Highlands Region’, dated June 2004, up-*
 17 *dated after the date of enactment of the High-*
 18 *lands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2021*
 19 *to comprise each municipality included on the*
 20 *list of municipalities included in the Highlands*
 21 *region as of that date of enactment, and main-*
 22 *tained in the headquarters of the Forest Service*
 23 *in Washington, District of Columbia; and*

1 “(B) a municipality approved by the Direc-
2 tor of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
3 ice under section 4(e).”;

4 (B) in paragraph (3), by amending sub-
5 paragraph (B) to read as follows:

6 “(B) identified by a Highlands State as
7 having high conservation value using the best
8 available science and geographic information
9 systems; and”;

10 (C) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “; or”
11 and inserting “, including a political subdivi-
12 sion thereof; or”; and

13 (D) by striking paragraphs (5) through (7);
14 (2) in section 4—

15 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “in the
16 Study” and all that follows through the end of
17 the paragraph and inserting “using the best
18 available science and geographic information
19 systems; and”;

20 (B) in subsection (c), by amending para-
21 graph (5) to read as follows:

22 “(5) provides that land conservation partnership
23 projects will be consistent with areas identified as
24 having high conservation value in accordance with

1 *the purposes described in section 2 in the Highlands*
2 *region.”;*

3 *(C) in subsection (e), by striking “fiscal*
4 *years 2005 through 2021” and inserting “fiscal*
5 *years 2022 through 2028”;*

6 *(D) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-*
7 *section (g); and*

8 *(E) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-*
9 *lowing:*

10 “(e) *REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL MU-*
11 *NICIPALITY.—The Director of the United States Fish and*
12 *Wildlife Service may, at the request of a Highlands State,*
13 *with the concurrence of the municipality, approve the inclu-*
14 *sion of a municipality within the State as part of the High-*
15 *lands region.*

16 “(f) *LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—*

17 “(1) *FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary*
18 *of the Interior may not expend more than \$300,000*
19 *for the administration of this Act in each fiscal year.*

20 “(2) *STATE ADMINISTRATION.—A State that re-*
21 *ceives funds under this section for a land conservation*
22 *partnership project may not use more than 5 percent*
23 *of the funds to administer the land conservation part-*
24 *nership project.”;*

25 *(3) in section 5—*

1 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “the
2 Study, Update, and any future study that the
3 Forest Service may undertake in”;

4 (B) in subsection (b)—

5 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in-
6 cluding a Pennsylvania and Connecticut
7 Update”; and

8 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “the
9 findings” and all that follows through the
10 end of the paragraph and inserting “with
11 stakeholders regarding implementation of
12 the program; and”; and

13 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “2005
14 through 2014” and inserting “2022 through
15 2028”; and

16 (4) in section 6, by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(f) APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an appraisal
20 related to a land acquisition carried out under this
21 Act, a Highlands State shall use an appraisal meth-
22 odology approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

23 “(2) ALTERNATIVE APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY.—
24 A Highlands State may petition the Secretary of the
25 Interior to consider an alternative appraisal method-

1 ology when there is a conflict, in any Highlands
2 State, between—

3 “(A) an appraisal methodology approved by
4 the Secretary of the Interior under paragraph
5 (1); and

6 “(B) applicable State law.”.

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