

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5578

To restrict the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and Conibear traps on animals
in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 15, 2021

Ms. ADAMS (for herself and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To restrict the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and Conibear
traps on animals in the United States.

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 “Public Safety and
5 Wildlife Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States to reduce risks
8 to public safety, as well as unnecessary harm to com-

1 panion animals and wildlife, from indiscriminate and inju-
2 rious trapping methods by prohibiting the import or ex-
3 port of, and the shipment in interstate commerce of, steel-
4 jaw leghold traps and Conibear traps.

5 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES.**

6 (a) PROHIBITED ACTS.—It shall be unlawful for any
7 person—

8 (1) to import, export, deliver, carry, or trans-
9 port by any means whatever, in interstate commerce,
10 any steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap; or

11 (2) to sell, receive, acquire, or purchase any
12 steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap that was de-
13 livered, carried, or transported in violation of para-
14 graph (1).

15 (b) PENALTIES.—Whoever knowingly violates sub-
16 section (a) shall, in addition to any other penalty that may
17 be imposed, be subject to the following:

18 (1) For the first such violation, a civil fine of
19 not more than \$500 imposed by the Secretary for
20 each steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap pos-
21 sessed.

22 (2) For each subsequent violation, a civil fine of
23 not more than \$1,000 imposed by the Secretary for
24 each steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap pos-

1 sessed, or imprisonment for not more than 2 years,
2 or both.

3 (c) PAYMENT OF COURT COSTS AND OTHER ASSOCI-
4 ATED EXPENSES.—A person found to be in violation of
5 subsection (a) shall pay all court costs associated there-
6 with.

7 **SEC. 4. REWARDS.**

8 (a) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary shall pay, to
9 any person who furnishes information that leads to a con-
10 viction of a violation of any provision of this Act or any
11 rule made under this Act, an amount equal to one-half
12 of the fine paid pursuant to the conviction.

13 (b) EXCEPTION.—Any officer or employee of the
14 United States or of any State or local government who
15 furnishes information or renders service in the perform-
16 ance of his or her official duties is not eligible for payment
17 under this section.

18 **SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except with respect to violations
20 of this Act to which subsection (b) applies, this Act and
21 any rules made under this Act shall be enforced by the
22 Secretary, who may use by agreement, with or without re-
23 imbursement, the personnel, services, and facilities of any
24 other Federal agency or any State agency for purposes
25 of enforcing this Act and such rules.

1 (b) IMPORT AND EXPORT VIOLATIONS.—

2 (1) IMPORT VIOLATIONS.—The importation of
3 articles in violation of section 3(a) shall be treated
4 as a violation of the customs laws of the United
5 States, and those provisions of law relating to viola-
6 tions of the customs laws of the United States shall
7 apply thereto.

8 (2) EXPORT VIOLATIONS.—The authorities
9 under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50
10 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), including penalties, shall be
11 used to enforce the provisions of this Act relating to
12 the export of articles in violation of section 3(a).

13 (c) FORFEITURE.—

14 (1) GENERAL RULE.—Except with respect to
15 exports to which the provisions of the Export Con-
16 trol Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.)
17 apply, and imports to which the customs laws of the
18 United States apply, pursuant to subsection (b), any
19 steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap taken, pos-
20 sessed, sold, purchased, offered for sale or purchase,
21 imported, exported, transported, delivered, received,
22 carried, or shipped in violation of this Act or any
23 rule made under this Act, shall be subject to for-
24 feiture to the United States. Those provisions of law
25 relating to—

1 (A) the seizure, summary and judicial for-
2 feiture, and condemnation of property for viola-
3 tions of the customs laws of the United States;

4 (B) the disposition of such property or the
5 proceeds from the sale thereof;

6 (C) the remission or mitigation of such for-
7 feitures; and

8 (D) the compromise of claims,
9 shall apply to seizures and forfeitures incurred, or
10 alleged to have been incurred, under the provisions
11 of this subsection, insofar as applicable and not in-
12 consistent with this Act.

13 (2) ENFORCEMENT.—Such duties as are im-
14 posed upon the customs officer or any other person
15 with respect to the seizure and forfeiture of property
16 under the customs laws of the United States may be
17 performed with respect to seizures and forfeitures of
18 property under this subsection by the Secretary or
19 such officers and employees as may be authorized or
20 designated for that purpose by the Secretary, or,
21 upon the request of the Secretary, by any other
22 agency that has authority to manage and dispose of
23 seized property.

24 (d) INJUNCTIONS.—The Attorney General of the
25 United States may seek to enjoin any person who is al-

1 leged to be in violation of this Act or any rule made under
2 this Act.

3 (e) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Commerce, the
4 Secretary of the Treasury, and the head of any other de-
5 partment or agency with enforcement responsibilities
6 under this Act shall cooperate with the Secretary in ensur-
7 ing that this Act, and rules made under this Act, are en-
8 forced in the most effective and efficient manner.

9 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) STEEL-JAW LEGHOLD TRAP.—The term
12 “steel-jaw leghold trap”—

13 (A) means any spring-powered pan or sear-
14 activated device with one or two opposing steel
15 jaws, whether the jaws are smooth, toothed,
16 padded, enclosed (dog-proof), or offset, that is
17 designed to capture an animal by snapping
18 closed upon the animal’s limb, foot, or part
19 thereof; and

20 (B) does not include any cage or box trap;
21 suitcase-type live beaver trap; or mouse or rat
22 snap trap.

23 (2) CONIBEAR TRAP.—The term “Conibear
24 trap”—

1 (A) means any trap consisting of two
2 metal frames hinged at the center point and
3 powered by two torsion springs to create a scis-
4 sor-like action designed to kill an animal by
5 snapping an animal's spinal column; and

6 (B) does not include any cage or box trap;
7 suitcase-type live beaver trap; mouse or rat
8 snap trap.

9 (3) CUSTOMS LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.—

10 The term “customs laws of the United States”
11 means any law or regulation enforced or adminis-
12 tered by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection
13 with respect to the importation of goods into the
14 customs territory of the United States.

15 (4) IMPORT.—The term “import” means to
16 land on, bring into, or introduce into, any place sub-
17 ject to the jurisdiction of the United States, whether
18 or not such landing, bringing, or introduction con-
19 stitutes an entry into the customs territory of the
20 United States.

21 (5) INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—The term “inter-
22 state commerce” has the meaning given such term
23 in section 10 of title 18, United States Code.

24 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 7. RULEMAKING.**

2 The Secretary may make rules to carry out this Act.

3 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 This Act shall take effect 1 year after the date of
5 the enactment of this Act.

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