

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 10069

To amend the Sikes Act to make certain improvements to integrated natural resources management plans of the Department of Defense for military installations, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 2026

Mr. WHITESIDES (for himself, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, and Ms. HOULAHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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

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## A BILL

To amend the Sikes Act to make certain improvements to integrated natural resources management plans of the Department of Defense for military installations, 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 “Military Readiness  
5 Through Resilient Lands Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO INTE-**  
2 **GRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGE-**  
3 **MENT PLANS FOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the Sikes Act (16  
5 U.S.C. 670a) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the  
7 following new paragraphs:

8 “(5) STANDARDIZED METRICS.—The Secretary  
9 of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the  
10 Interior, the Administrator of the National Oceanic  
11 and Atmospheric Administration, and appropriate  
12 State agencies, shall develop and maintain installa-  
13 tion-specific goals and metrics for using technologies  
14 and artificial intelligence for the assessment of nat-  
15 ural resources and ecosystem services as relevant to  
16 mission readiness, climate resilience, or community  
17 safety on military installations. Such metrics shall,  
18 at a minimum, be consistent with the purposes and  
19 elements of the integrated natural resources man-  
20 agement plans to allow for comparison of conditions  
21 and trends on specific military installations and shall  
22 address—

23 “(A) biodiversity, including populations  
24 and habitat condition for threatened and endan-  
25 gered species and other species of concern;

1           “(B) habitat extent, quality, and  
2           connectivity;

3           “(C) water quality and quantity;

4           “(D) wildfire risk and fuels conditions;

5           “(E) ecosystem condition, including soil  
6           health and vegetation condition;

7           “(F) flood risk and watershed condition,  
8           including on adjacent lands measurably affected  
9           by watersheds originating or passing through  
10          military lands; and

11          “(G) other ecosystem services identified by  
12          the Secretary of Defense—

13               “(i) as relevant to mission readiness,  
14               climate resilience, or community safety;  
15               and

16               “(ii) consistent with the military in-  
17               stallation resilience elements in sections  
18               2801, 2802, 2815, 2815a, 2866, and  
19               2866a of title 10, United States Code.

20          “(6) TECHNOLOGY AND METHODOLOGIES.—

21          The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Secre-  
22          taries of the military departments, shall, to the max-  
23          imum extent practicable and consistent with national  
24          security, evaluate, test and, where the Secretary de-  
25          termines doing so would improve existing ap-

1 proaches, use technologies and methodologies to im-  
2 prove the management and implementation of nat-  
3 ural resources programs on military installations, in-  
4 cluding—

5 “(A) remote sensing;

6 “(B) automated environmental monitoring  
7 networks;

8 “(C) geographic information systems;

9 “(D) artificial intelligence; and

10 “(E) other advanced data analytics tools,  
11 to collect, process, and analyze data on natural  
12 resources and ecosystem services on military in-  
13 stallations.

14 “(7) UPDATES TO COLLECTED DATA.—The  
15 Secretary of Defense shall ensure that—

16 “(A) to the extent practicable, data col-  
17 lected pursuant to paragraphs (5) and (6) are  
18 updated on a consistent and regular basis ap-  
19 propriate for use in integrated natural resource  
20 management plans; and

21 “(B) such data is used for the appropriate  
22 installation-level and enterprise-level decision-  
23 making for natural resources management, in-  
24 frastructure resilience, and mission  
25 sustainment.

1           “(8) USE OF METRICS AND DATA.—To the ex-  
2           tent practicable and consistent with military mission  
3           requirements, the Secretary concerned shall, during  
4           the review required under subsection (b)(2), prepare,  
5           review, and implement each integrated natural re-  
6           sources management plan under this subsection in  
7           accordance with the following:

8                   “(A) ASSESS AND PROJECT CONDITIONS.—  
9           The Secretary concerned shall use the metrics  
10          established under paragraph (5) and the data  
11          generated by the monitoring technologies de-  
12          scribed in paragraph (6) to assess baseline con-  
13          ditions, trends, and projected future conditions  
14          of key natural resources and ecosystem services  
15          on the installation.

16                  “(B) IDENTIFY NET CONDITION OBJEC-  
17          TIVES.—The Secretary concerned shall establish  
18          quantitative or otherwise measurable net condi-  
19          tion objectives, as appropriate, for maintaining  
20          or improving the condition of such resources  
21          and services, including such resources and serv-  
22          ices specified in paragraph (5).”;

23          (2) in subsection (b)—

24                  (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and”;

1 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
2 paragraph (4); and

3 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
4 following new paragraph:

5 “(3) shall, at the same frequency as the review  
6 of the operation and effect of the plan under para-  
7 graph (2) and to the extent practicable, use the  
8 metrics, technology, and methodologies under para-  
9 graphs (5) and (6) of subsection (a) to—

10 “(A) assess trends in key natural resources  
11 and ecosystem services, including biodiversity,  
12 habitat condition, wildfire risk, watershed con-  
13 dition, and other relevant ecosystem services, on  
14 each military installation covered by the plan;

15 “(B) evaluate whether the plan is contrib-  
16 uting to the maintenance or improvement of the  
17 net condition of such resources and services at  
18 the military installation; and

19 “(C) inform any revisions to the plan, in-  
20 cluding adjustments to management actions de-  
21 signed to improve conditions in some areas to  
22 offset or compensate for degradation related to  
23 mission-essential activities in other areas; and”;  
24 and

1           (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
2       section:

3       (b) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE.—Not later than  
4 two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and  
5 five years thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall, as  
6 part of the report required under section 2711 of title 10,  
7 United States Code, submit to the congressional defense  
8 committees supplemental materials with respect to the ad-  
9 ministration of section 101 of the Sikes Act (as amended  
10 by subsection (a)) that includes a summary of—

11           (1) progress made toward—

12               (A) the use of the metrics, technology,  
13 methodologies, and collected data under para-  
14 graphs (5), (6), and (7) of subsection (a) of  
15 such section (as added by subsection (a)); and

16               (B) deploying such metrics to compare  
17 natural resource trends across military installa-  
18 tions;

19           (2) the benefits of such paragraphs (5), (6),  
20 and (7) in accelerating, simplifying and otherwise  
21 streamlining environmental permitting, environ-  
22 mental review and other similar interagency proc-  
23 esses; and

24           (3) recommendations of the Secretary with re-  
25 spect to opportunities to improve the efficiency, co-

1        ordination, and timeliness of interagency environ-  
2        mental review and permitting processes applicable to  
3        individual military installations.

4        “(h) ECOSYSTEM SERVICES DEFINED.—In this sec-  
5        tion, the term ‘ecosystem services’ means the direct and  
6        indirect benefits that natural systems provide to people  
7        and communities.”.

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