

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10117

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study regarding certain reptiles, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 17, 2026

Mr. STEUBE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study regarding certain reptiles, 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 “Gathering Alligator
5 Treatment, Oversight, and Response Act of 2026” or the
6 “GATOR Act of 2026”.

7 **SEC. 2. STUDY REGARDING CERTAIN REPTILES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
9 United States, in consultation with the Secretary and the
10 heads of wildlife agencies of covered States the Comp-

1 troller General and Secretary determine relevant, shall
 2 carry out a study regarding the effect of the treatment
 3 by the Secretary pursuant to section 4(e)(A) of the En-
 4 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(e)(A)) of
 5 covered reptiles as threatened species by reason of simi-
 6 larity of appearance to a species listed as an endangered
 7 species or a threatened species under section 4 of that Act
 8 (16 U.S.C. 1533) on the size of the population of covered
 9 reptiles, including whether and, if so, how, such treatment
 10 has—

11 (1) affected the management programs of cov-
 12 ered reptiles of covered States;

13 (2) resulted in—

14 (A) more than a complete recovery of the
 15 American alligator; and

16 (B) the common caiman or brown caiman
 17 becoming an invasive species in Florida; and

18 (3) made it more difficult for nuisance Amer-
 19 ican alligators or invasive common caimans or brown
 20 caimans to be removed from waterways in or around
 21 residential or commercial areas than before such
 22 treatment was implemented.

23 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) COVERED REPTILE.—The term “covered
 25 reptile” means—

1 (A) the American alligator (*Alligator*
2 *mississippiensis*);

3 (B) the common caiman (*Caiman*
4 *crocodilus crocodilus*); and

5 (C) the brown caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*
6 *odilus fuscus*; *Caiman crocodilus chiapasius*).

7 (2) COVERED STATE.—The term “covered
8 State” means a State that has at least 1 population
9 of a covered reptile located within the State.

10 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
12 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
13 ice.

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