

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8401

To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the transport, purchase, and sale of pelts of, and handicrafts, garments, and art produced from, Southcentral and Southeast Alaska northern sea otters that are taken for subsistence purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2026

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

A BILL

To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the transport, purchase, and sale of pelts of, and handicrafts, garments, and art produced from, Southcentral and Southeast Alaska northern sea otters that are taken for subsistence 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. TRANSPORT, PURCHASE, AND SALE OF PELTS**
 2 **OF, AND HANDICRAFTS, GARMENTS, AND ART**
 3 **PRODUCED FROM SOUTHCENTRAL AND**
 4 **SOUTHEAST ALASKA NORTHERN SEA OTTERS**
 5 **TAKEN FOR SUBSISTENCE PURPOSES.**

6 Section 102 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act
 7 of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1372) is amended by adding at the
 8 end the following:

9 “(g) SEA OTTER PELTS AND PRODUCTS.—Nothing
 10 in this Act prohibits—

11 “(1) the transport, purchase, sale of, or any
 12 offer to purchase or sell, any pelt of an otter from
 13 the Southcentral or Southeast Alaska stock of north-
 14 ern sea otters that is taken for subsistence purposes
 15 in accordance with section 101(b)(1); or

16 “(2) the transport, purchase, sale, export of, or
 17 any offer to purchase, sell or export, any handicraft,
 18 garment, or art that is produced from the pelt of the
 19 Southcentral or Southeast Alaska stock of northern
 20 sea otters that is taken for subsistence purposes in
 21 accordance with section 101(b)(1), regardless of
 22 whether the handicraft, garment, or art—

23 “(A) is traditional or contemporary; or

24 “(B) is or is not altered significantly.”.