

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5234

To amend the Act of March 2, 1931, to establish a Human-Wildlife Conflict Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 4, 2026

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. HEINRICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Act of March 2, 1931, to establish a Human-Wildlife Conflict Reduction Program, 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 “Human-Wildlife Con-
5 flict Reduction Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT REDUCTION PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 The Act of March 2, 1931 (46 Stat. 1468, chapter
9 370), is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 4. HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT REDUCTION PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
5 culture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’)
6 shall establish a program, to be known as the
7 ‘Human-Wildlife Conflict Reduction Program’ (re-
8 ferred to in this section as the ‘Program’), to de-
9 velop, implement, and coordinate nonlethal strategies
10 and projects to reduce conflicts between humans and
11 wildlife and between livestock and wildlife, including
12 depredation of livestock.

13 “(2) PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the Pro-
14 gram, the Secretary shall prioritize—

15 “(A) deploying resources in States in
16 which the Nonlethal Initiative of the Animal
17 and Plant Health Inspection Service operates as
18 of the date of enactment of this section;

19 “(B) reducing livestock depredation and
20 conflict with predator species; and

21 “(C) reducing harms caused by wildlife to
22 human infrastructure or agriculture.

23 “(3) NONLETHAL INITIATIVE.—The operations
24 of the Nonlethal Initiative of the Animal and Plant
25 Health Inspection Service shall be subsumed into the
26 Program.

1 “(b) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—In carrying
 2 out the activities of the Program, the Secretary shall pur-
 3 sue research and development—

4 “(1) to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of
 5 various nonlethal strategies for reducing human-
 6 wildlife conflict, livestock depredations, and bol-
 7 stering livestock safety; and

8 “(2) to develop new and effective nonlethal
 9 strategies for reducing human-wildlife conflict and
 10 livestock depredations and bolstering livestock safe-
 11 ty.

12 “(c) ASSISTANCE.—Under the Program, the Sec-
 13 retary may implement projects to provide assistance to
 14 landowners, agricultural producers, Indian Tribes, and
 15 nonprofit organizations to deploy nonlethal strategies—

16 “(1) to reduce human-wildlife conflict; and

17 “(2) to reduce predator depredation on live-
 18 stock.

19 “(d) BEST PRACTICES; TRAINING; DEMONSTRATION
 20 PROJECTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the Program, the
 22 Secretary—

23 “(A) shall share best practices with agri-
 24 cultural producers, landowners, Indian Tribes,

1 nonprofit organizations, and relevant Federal or
2 State agency personnel;

3 “(B) may provide training in nonlethal
4 strategies to those entities;

5 “(C) may support demonstration projects
6 and pilot projects to evaluate the effectiveness
7 of nonlethal strategies under local conditions;
8 and

9 “(D) may incorporate monitoring and
10 adaptive management to improve outcomes of
11 nonlethal strategies over time.

12 “(2) RESOURCE.—To the extent practicable,
13 the Secretary shall carry out paragraph (1) with
14 consideration of State-level plans developed under
15 subsection (e).

16 “(e) STATE-LEVEL PLANS.—The Program shall as-
17 sist States, on request, to develop or update a State-level
18 plan to guide the implementation of nonlethal strategies.

19 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit
20 to Congress an annual report describing—

21 “(1) the use of funds under the Program;

22 “(2) species impacted by the Program; and

23 “(3) the nonlethal strategies used under the
24 Program and the effectiveness of each of those strat-
25 egies.

1 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
3 out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
4 through 2031, of which not more than 10 percent per fis-
5 cal year shall be used for research activities under the Pro-
6 gram.”.

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