

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5617

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the silver-based biocides as an alternative treatment to preserve wood.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 10, 2002

Mr. GIBBONS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, 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 direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the silver-based biocides as an alternative treatment to preserve wood.

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 “Wood Preservation  
5       Safety Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STUDY ON EFFEC-**  
2 **TIVENESS OF SILVER-BASED BIOCIDES AS**  
3 **WOOD PRESERVATION TREATMENT.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Environmental Protection Agency, the  
6 chemical industry, and the home improvement indus-  
7 try have negotiated a voluntary agreement to phase  
8 out the use of arsenic-based preservatives in pres-  
9 sure treated wood by December 31, 2003.

10 (2) In order to maintain the wood treatment in-  
11 dustry in the United States, a suitable, safe alter-  
12 native to arsenic-based preservatives must be pro-  
13 duced.

14 (3) Silver has great potential as a viable, safe,  
15 and cost-effective alternative as a wood preservative.

16 (4) Silver has been used since ancient times as  
17 a treatment to prevent the spread of bacteria, and  
18 silver-based biocides are used today in a wide range  
19 of applications.

20 (5) As of 2001, silver was commercially pro-  
21 duced in 12 States (Alaska, Arizona, California, Col-  
22 orado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mex-  
23 ico, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington), and sil-  
24 ver remains a readily available mineral.

1           (6) The properties of silver biocide need to be  
2       further studied to determine the effectiveness of its  
3       use as a wood preservative.

4       (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agri-  
5       culture shall direct the Forest Products Laboratory in  
6       Madison, Wisconsin, to conduct a study during fiscal years  
7       2003 and 2004 regarding the effectiveness of silver-based  
8       biocides as a wood preservation treatment.

9       (c) FUNDING SOURCE.—To provide funds for the  
10      study, the Secretary of the Interior shall return to the Sec-  
11      retary of Agriculture \$8,000,000 of the funds that were  
12      transferred by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Sec-  
13      retary of the Interior pursuant to section 2507 of the  
14      Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public  
15      Law 107–171; 116 Stat. 275; 43 U.S.C. 2211 note) and  
16      remain unobligated as of the date of the enactment of this  
17      Act.

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