

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2431

To establish a National Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2003

Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PETRI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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

A BILL

To establish a National Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force, 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 “Chronic Wasting Dis-
5 ease Task Force Establishment Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Chronic Wasting Disease, the fatal neuro-
2 logical disease found in cervids, is a fundamental
3 threat to the health and vibrancy of deer and elk
4 populations, and the increased occurrence of chronic
5 wasting disease in regionally diverse locations in re-
6 cent years necessitates an escalation in research,
7 surveillance, monitoring, and public education efforts
8 to contain and manage this lethal disease.

9 (2) The heads of relevant Federal agencies
10 should provide consistent, coherent, and integrated
11 support structures and programs for the benefit of
12 State wildlife and agricultural administrators, as
13 Chronic Wasting Disease can move freely between
14 wild cervids across the broad array of Federal,
15 State, tribal, and local land management jurisdic-
16 tions.

17 (3) The Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary
18 of Agriculture, and the heads of other affected Fed-
19 eral agencies need to better coordinate the activities
20 of their agencies related to control of Chronic Wast-
21 ing Disease in wild cervid populations.

22 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are the
23 following:

24 (1) To establish a National Chronic Wasting
25 Disease Task Force to coordinate Federal, State,

1 and tribal activities to address the environmental
2 and economic impacts caused by Chronic Wasting
3 Disease on captive and wild populations of deer and
4 elk.

5 (2) To implement the plan published jointly by
6 the Department of the Interior and the Department
7 of Agriculture entitled “Plan for Assisting States,
8 Federal Agencies, and Tribes in Managing Chronic
9 Wasting Disease in Wild and Captive Cervids”,
10 dated June 26, 2002.

11 (3) To enhance Federal, State, and tribal re-
12 search concerning Chronic Wasting Disease, and to
13 promote the development of new diagnostic, surveil-
14 lance, monitoring, and screening methods and tech-
15 nologies.

16 (4) To increase public awareness concerning
17 Chronic Wasting Disease among the sport hunting
18 community and the public at large through the im-
19 plementation of a national communications strategy.

20 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.—The Fish
21 and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) is
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 10. NATIONAL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TASK**
2 **FORCE.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Na-
4 tional Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force (in this sec-
5 tion referred to as the ‘Task Force’).

6 “(b) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

7 “(1) coordinate activities to implement the Na-
8 tional Plan in cooperation with State, regional, local,
9 tribal, college, and university and non-governmental
10 partners;

11 “(2) plan and host an annual national public
12 conference to review progress made in implementing
13 the National Plan; and

14 “(3) develop an annual cross-cutting budget to
15 specify sufficient levels of appropriations necessary
16 to implement the National Plan.

17 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the
19 Task Force shall be as follows:

20 “(A) The Secretary of the Interior or a
21 designee of the Secretary.

22 “(B) The Secretary of Agriculture or a
23 designee of the Secretary.

24 “(C) Up to 15 individuals appointed jointly
25 by the Secretary of the Interior and the Sec-
26 retary of Agriculture from representatives of

1 State agencies, commissions, and boards, re-
2 gional agencies, tribes, colleges and universities,
3 and non-governmental organizations.

4 “(D) The chairman and ranking minority
5 members of each of the Committee on Re-
6 sources and the Committee on Agriculture of
7 the House of Representatives and the Com-
8 mittee on Environment and Public Works and
9 the Committee on Agriculture of the United
10 States Senate.

11 “(2) REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.—The
12 members of the Task Force appointed by the co-
13 chairs under paragraph (1)(C)—

14 “(A) shall not be officers or employees of
15 the Federal Government;

16 “(B) shall be representative of the geo-
17 graphic distribution of the disease; and

18 “(C) shall have outstanding knowledge or
19 expertise of wildlife biology and ecology, veteri-
20 nary sciences and animal husbandry, wildlife
21 management, diagnostic and testing technology
22 development, communications and media devel-
23 opment, or wildlife dependent recreation.

24 “(3) DEADLINE.—The Secretaries shall com-
25 plete appointment of members under paragraph

1 (1)(C) by note later than 90 days after the date of
2 the enactment of this section.

3 “(4) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the members
4 appointed under paragraph (1)(C)—

5 “(A) shall not affect the power or duty of
6 the Task Force; and

7 “(B) shall be expeditiously filled in the
8 same manner as the original appointment was
9 made.

10 “(d) CO-CHAIRS.—The Secretary of the Interior and
11 the Secretary of Agriculture (or their designees under
12 paragraph (1) (A) and (B)), shall be co-chairs of the Task
13 Force.

14 “(e) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Task
15 Force shall receive no compensation for their service on
16 the Task Force.

17 “(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Task
18 Force shall be allowed necessary travel expenses in accord-
19 ance with section 5702 of title 5, United States Code,
20 while away from their homes or regular places of business
21 in the performance of services for the Task Force.

22 “(g) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—Upon the request
23 of the Task Force—

24 “(1) the co-chairs of the Task Force, acting
25 through their designees, may provide to the Task

1 Force such administrative and technical support as
2 is necessary for the Task Force to carry out its du-
3 ties under this section, including services relating to
4 budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, per-
5 sonnel, and procurement: and

6 “(2) the head of any other appropriate Federal
7 agency may provide to the Task Force such advice
8 and assistance, with or without reimbursement, as is
9 appropriate to assist the Task Force in carrying out
10 its duties.

11 “(h) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
12 after the completion of appointment of the members of
13 the Task Force, and annually thereafter, the Task Force
14 shall submit to the Congress a report—

15 “(1) describing the activities and achievements
16 of the Task Force;

17 “(2) setting forth an annual plan and forecast
18 for activities of the Task Force scheduled for the fol-
19 lowing year;

20 “(3) a summary of new developments; and

21 “(4) a cross-cutting budget to support the ac-
22 tivities of the Task Force.

23 “(i) NATIONAL PLAN DEFINED.—In this section the
24 term ‘National Plan’ means the plan published jointly by
25 the Department of the Interior and the Department of Ag-

1 riculture entitled ‘Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agen-
2 cies, and Tribes in Managing Chronic Wasting Disease in
3 Wild and Captive Cervids’, dated June 26, 2002.’.”

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