

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3824

To reform oversight of law enforcement activities of the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior and to improve coordination and cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 2015

Mr. HARDY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural 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 reform oversight of law enforcement activities of the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior and to improve coordination and cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, 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 “Forest Service and
5 Department of the Interior Law Enforcement Improve-
6 ment Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. MANAGEMENT OF FOREST SERVICE LAW ENFORCE-**
2 **MENT PERSONNEL.**

3 (a) RESPONSIBILITY OF REGIONAL FORESTER.—Ex-
4 cept in the case of law enforcement personnel described
5 in subsection (b), the Regional Forester for a Forest Serv-
6 ice Region shall be responsible for all Forest Service law
7 enforcement personnel assigned to that Region. The Re-
8 gional Forester may delegate this responsibility to Forest
9 Supervisors and District Rangers as the Regional Forester
10 considers appropriate and based on the capabilities of the
11 line officer.

12 (b) INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION.—The Chief of the
13 Forest Service, acting through the Director of Law En-
14 forcement, shall remain responsible for the Investigations
15 Division of Forest Service law enforcement.

16 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL LANDS LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW**
17 **BOARDS.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture,
19 with respect to the Forest Service, and the Secretary of
20 the Interior, with respect to the land management agen-
21 cies of the Department of the Interior, shall establish a
22 Federal Lands Law Enforcement Review Board.

23 (b) COMPOSITION.—Each Federal Lands Law En-
24 forcement Review Board shall be composed of seven mem-
25 bers as follows:

1 (1) The applicable Director of Law Enforce-
2 ment.

3 (2) A Law Enforcement Regional Special Agent
4 in Charge, in the case of the Board established by
5 the Secretary of Agriculture, and a State Director of
6 Law Enforcement and Security, in the case of the
7 Board established by the Secretary of the Interior.

8 (3) Three line officers selected by the Secretary
9 concerned.

10 (4) One member of the National Sheriffs' Asso-
11 ciation who resides east of the 100th meridian and
12 is recommended by the Association.

13 (5) One member of the National Sheriffs' Asso-
14 ciation who resides west of the 100th meridian and
15 is recommended by the Association.

16 (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a Federal Lands
17 Law Enforcement Review Board are to review and make
18 recommendations regarding the following:

19 (1) Law enforcement incidents of concern in-
20 volving law enforcement personnel of the agency.

21 (2) Proposed changes to agency law enforce-
22 ment policy.

23 (3) The cooperative law enforcement program.

24 (4) Training of agency law enforcement per-
25 sonnel.

1 (d) ADDITIONAL BOARDS.—The Secretary of Agri-
 2 culture, with respect to the Forest Service, and the Sec-
 3 retary of the Interior, with respect to the land manage-
 4 ment agencies of the Department of the Interior, may es-
 5 tablish additional Federal Lands Law Enforcement Re-
 6 view Boards at subordinate levels of the agency.

7 **SEC. 4. IMPROVED COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**
 8 **WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.**

9 (a) FOREST SERVICE.—Public Law 92–82 (16
 10 U.S.C. 551a) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 11 lowing new sentence: “If a political subdivision of a State
 12 contains 25,000 acres or more of Federal land, all or a
 13 majority of which is National Forest System land, the Sec-
 14 retary shall endeavor to develop a memorandum of under-
 15 standing with the political subdivision to address the spe-
 16 cific roles and coordination between Forest Service law en-
 17 forcement personnel and local law enforcement.”.

18 (b) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—If a political
 19 subdivision of a State contains 25,000 acres or more of
 20 Federal land, all or a majority of which is under the juris-
 21 diction of a land management agency of the Department
 22 of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior shall endeavor
 23 to develop a memorandum of understanding with the polit-
 24 ical subdivision to address the specific roles and coordina-

- 1 tion between Department law enforcement personnel and
- 2 local law enforcement.

