

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7276

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

To establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to control locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Desert Locust Control  
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

5       It is the policy of the United States to prioritize ef-  
6 forts to control the ongoing desert locust outbreak in East  
7 Africa and other affected regions, mitigate the impacts on  
8 food security, economic productivity, and political sta-  
9 bility, improve interagency coordination to prevent future  
10 outbreaks, and promote resilience in affected countries.

11 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

12       Congress finds the following:

13           (1) The United States Agency for International  
14 Development reports that countries in East Africa  
15 are currently suffering the worst desert locust out-  
16 break in decades, which will devour crops and pas-  
17 ture and destroy local livelihoods across the region.

18           (2) As of June 2020, there were more than 26  
19 million people experiencing acute food insecurity in  
20 Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania,  
21 Uganda, Sudan, and Djibouti, and these numbers  
22 are projected to increase if the desert locust out-  
23 break is not controlled.

24           (3) As the desert locust outbreak continues,  
25 there may be insufficient resources to continue to  
26 conduct aerial spraying and without such resources

1 the current outbreak could develop into a plague by  
2 the end of 2020.

3 (4) The desert locust outbreak in East Africa,  
4 particularly in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, is neg-  
5 atively impacting food security, local livelihoods and  
6 economic productivity, and may threaten political  
7 stability in the region.

8 (5) Proactive investments now to control the  
9 desert locust outbreak could reduce the need for a  
10 much larger United States humanitarian response  
11 effort later, as well as support economic and political  
12 stability and build resilience in affected countries.

13 (6) In order to optimize the United States re-  
14 sponse to the desert locust outbreak, an interagency  
15 working group should be established to develop and  
16 implement a comprehensive, strategic plan to control  
17 the desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other  
18 affected regions, mitigate impacts on food security,  
19 economic productivity, and political stability and  
20 prevent future outbreaks.

21 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish  
23 an interagency working group to coordinate the United  
24 States response to the ongoing desert locust outbreak in  
25 East Africa and other affected regions, including the de-

1 velopment of a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the  
2 outbreak, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic  
3 productivity, and political stability, and prevent future  
4 outbreaks.

5 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The interagency working  
7 group shall be composed of the following:

8 (A) Two representatives from the United  
9 States Agency for International Development.

10 (B) One representative from each of the  
11 following:

12 (i) The United States Mission to the  
13 United Nations Agencies for Food and Ag-  
14 riculture.

15 (ii) The National Security Council.

16 (iii) The Department of State.

17 (iv) The Department of Defense.

18 (v) The Department of Agriculture.

19 (vi) Any other relevant Federal de-  
20 partment or agency.

21 (2) CHAIR.—The President shall designate one  
22 of the representatives from the United States Agen-  
23 cy for International Development described in para-  
24 graph (1)(A) to serve as chair of the interagency  
25 working group.

1 (c) DUTIES.—The interagency working group shall—

2 (1) assess the scope of the desert locust out-  
3 break in East Africa and other affected regions, in-  
4 cluding its impact on food security, economic pro-  
5 ductivity, and political stability in affected countries;

6 (2) assess the impacts of restrictions relating to  
7 the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to  
8 as “COVID–19”) pandemic;

9 (3) monitor the effectiveness of ongoing assist-  
10 ance efforts to control the desert locust outbreak  
11 and mitigate its impacts and identify gaps and op-  
12 portunities for additional support to such programs;

13 (4) review the effectiveness of regional and mul-  
14 tilateral efforts to control the desert locust outbreak  
15 and the coordination among relevant United States  
16 Government agencies, regional governments, and  
17 international organizations, including the World  
18 Food Programme and the United Nations Food and  
19 Agriculture Organization; and

20 (5) not later than 90 days after the establish-  
21 ment of the interagency working group under sub-  
22 section (a), develop and submit to the President and  
23 the appropriate congressional committees a com-  
24 prehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust  
25 outbreak, including a description of efforts to—

1 (A) improve coordination among relevant  
2 United States Government agencies, regional  
3 governments, and international organizations,  
4 including the World Food Programme and the  
5 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organiza-  
6 tion;

7 (B) ensure delivery of necessary assets  
8 control the desert locust outbreak and humani-  
9 tarian and development assistance to address  
10 and mitigate impacts to food security, economic  
11 productivity, and political stability; and

12 (C) to the extent practicable, prevent and  
13 mitigate future desert locust and other, similar  
14 destructive insect outbreaks (such as Fall  
15 Armyworm) in Africa and other parts of the  
16 world, which require a humanitarian response.

17 (d) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP SUPPORT.—The  
18 interagency working group shall continue to meet not less  
19 than semi-annually to facilitate implementation of the  
20 comprehensive, strategic plan required by subsection  
21 (c)(5).

22 (e) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the  
23 date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of  
24 this Act, or at such time as there is no longer an upsurge

1 in the desert locust outbreak in East Africa, whichever oc-  
2 curs earlier.

3 (f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
4 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-  
5 sional committees” means—

6 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
7 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
8 resentatives; and

9 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and  
10 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

Passed the House of Representatives November 18,  
2020.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*