

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 382

To authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. JONES, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, 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 Transmission in Cervidae Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) ACADEMY.—The term “Academy” means
2 the National Academy of Sciences.

3 (2) CERVID.—The term “cervid” means any
4 species within the family Cervidae.

5 (3) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term
6 “chronic wasting disease” means the animal disease
7 afflicting deer, elk, and moose populations that—

8 (A) is a transmissible disease of the nerv-
9 ous system resulting in distinctive lesions in the
10 brain; and

11 (B) belongs to the group of diseases known
12 as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies,
13 which group includes scrapie, bovine spongiform
14 encephalopathy, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

15 (4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
16 means—

17 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
18 through the Administrator of the Animal and
19 Plant Health Inspection Service; and

20 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting
21 through the Director of the United States Geo-
22 logical Survey.

23 **SEC. 3. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN**
24 **CERVIDAE RESOURCE STUDY.**

25 (a) STUDY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall enter
2 into an arrangement with the Academy under which
3 the Academy shall conduct, and submit to the Secre-
4 taries a report describing the findings of, a special
5 resource study to identify the predominant pathways
6 and mechanisms of the transmission of chronic wast-
7 ing disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations
8 of cervids in the United States.

9 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The arrangement under
10 paragraph (1) shall provide that the actual expenses
11 incurred by the Academy in conducting the study
12 under paragraph (1) shall be paid by the Secre-
13 taries.

14 (b) CONTENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study under
15 subsection (a) shall—

16 (1) with respect to wild, captive, and farmed
17 populations of cervids in the United States, iden-
18 tify—

19 (A)(i) the pathways and mechanisms for
20 the transmission of chronic wasting disease
21 within live cervid populations and cervid prod-
22 ucts, which may include pathways and mecha-
23 nisms for transmission from Canada;

24 (ii) the infection rates for each pathway
25 and mechanism identified under clause (i); and

1 (iii) the relative frequency of transmission
 2 of each pathway and mechanism identified
 3 under clause (i);

4 (B)(i) anthropogenic and environmental
 5 factors contributing to new chronic wasting dis-
 6 ease emergence events;

7 (ii) the development of geographical areas
 8 with increased chronic wasting disease preva-
 9 lence; and

10 (iii) the overall geographical patterns of
 11 chronic wasting disease distribution;

12 (C) significant gaps in current scientific
 13 knowledge regarding the transmission pathways
 14 and mechanisms identified under subparagraph
 15 (A)(i); and

16 (D) for prioritization the scientific research
 17 projects that will address the knowledge gaps
 18 identified under subparagraph (C); and

19 (2) review and compare science-based best prac-
 20 tices, standards, and guidance regarding the man-
 21 agement of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive,
 22 and farmed populations of cervids in the United
 23 States that have been developed by—

1 (A) the National Chronic Wasting Disease
2 Herd Certification Program of the Animal and
3 Plant Health Inspection Service;

4 (B) the United States Geological Survey;
5 and

6 (C) State wildlife and agricultural agen-
7 cies, in the case of practices, standards, and
8 guidance that provide practical, science-based
9 recommendations to State and Federal agencies
10 for minimizing or eliminating the risk of trans-
11 mission of chronic wasting disease in the
12 United States.

13 (c) DEADLINE.—The study under subsection (a) shall
14 be completed not later than 180 days after the date on
15 which funds are first made available for the study.

16 (d) DATA SHARING.—The Secretaries shall share
17 with the entity conducting the study under subsection (a)
18 data and access to databases on chronic wasting disease
19 under the jurisdiction of—

20 (1) the Veterinary Services Program of the Ani-
21 mal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

22 (2) the United States Geological Survey.

23 (e) REPORT.—On completion of the study, the Secre-
24 taries shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
25 trition, and Forestry, the Committee on Energy and Nat-

1 ural Resources, and the Committee on Environment and
2 Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
3 culture and the Committee on Natural Resources of the
4 House of Representatives a report that describes—

5 (1) the findings of the study; and

6 (2) any conclusions and recommendations that
7 the Secretaries determine to be appropriate.

○