

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2105

To establish the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Advisory Committee to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, recreational shooting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2019

Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia) 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 establish the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Advisory Committee to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, recreational shooting, 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 “Wildlife and Hunting
5 Heritage Conservation Advisory Committee Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVA-**
2 **TION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fish and Wildlife Coordina-
4 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 10. WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVA-**
7 **TION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
9 the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Advisory
10 Committee (in this section referred to as the ‘Advisory
11 Committee’) to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and
12 Agriculture (in this section referred to as ‘the Secretaries’)
13 on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, and rec-
14 reational shooting.

15 “(b) DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The
16 Advisory Committee shall advise the Secretaries with re-
17 gard to—

18 “(1) implementation of Executive Order 13443,
19 entitled ‘Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wild-
20 life Conservation’, signed on January 1, 2008, which
21 directs Federal agencies ‘to facilitate the expansion
22 and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the
23 management of game species and their habitat’;

24 “(2) policies or programs to conserve and re-
25 store wetlands, agricultural lands, grasslands, forest,
26 and rangeland habitats;

1 “(3) policies or programs to promote opportuni-
2 ties and access to hunting and shooting sports on
3 Federal lands;

4 “(4) policies or programs to recruit and retain
5 new hunters and shooters;

6 “(5) policies or programs that increase public
7 awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation
8 and the social and economic benefits of recreational
9 hunting and shooting; and

10 “(6) policies or programs that encourage co-
11 ordination among the public, the hunting and shoot-
12 ing sports community, wildlife conservation groups,
13 and States, Tribes, and the Federal Government.

14 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

15 “(1) APPOINTMENT.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Com-
17 mittee shall consist of 7 ex officio members and
18 no more than 16 discretionary members.

19 “(B) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The ex offi-
20 cio members are—

21 “(i) the Director of the United States
22 Fish and Wildlife Service or an individual
23 designated by the Director;

1 “(ii) the Director of the Bureau of
2 Land Management or an individual des-
3 ignated by the Director;

4 “(iii) the Director of the National
5 Park Service or an individual designated
6 by the Director;

7 “(iv) the Chief of the Forest Service
8 or an individual designated by the Chief;

9 “(v) the Chief of the Natural Re-
10 sources Conservation Service or an indi-
11 vidual designated by the Chief;

12 “(vi) the Administrator of the Farm
13 Service Agency or an individual designated
14 by the Administrator; and

15 “(vii) the Executive Director of the
16 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

17 “(C) DISCRETIONARY MEMBERS.—The
18 Secretaries shall jointly appoint at least one dis-
19 cretionary member from each of the following:

20 “(i) State fish and wildlife agencies.

21 “(ii) Game bird hunting organiza-
22 tions.

23 “(iii) Wildlife conservation organiza-
24 tions.

25 “(iv) Big game hunting organizations.

1 “(v) The tourism, outfitter, or guiding
2 industry.

3 “(vi) The firearms or ammunition
4 manufacturing industry.

5 “(vii) The hunting or shooting equip-
6 ment retail industry.

7 “(viii) Tribal resource management
8 organizations.

9 “(ix) The agriculture industry.

10 “(x) The ranching industry.

11 “(xi) Waterfowl hunting organiza-
12 tions.

13 “(D) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretaries may
14 not appoint an individual as a member of the
15 Advisory Committee unless the Secretaries de-
16 termine that such individual, and the organiza-
17 tion such individual represents, actively sup-
18 ports and promotes sustainable-use hunting,
19 wildlife conservation, and recreational shooting.

20 “(2) TERMS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
22 subparagraph (B), members of the Advisory
23 Committee shall be appointed for a term of 4
24 years. Members shall not be appointed for more
25 than 3 terms.

1 “(B) TERMS OF INITIAL APPOINTEES.—As
2 designated by the Secretary at the time of ap-
3 pointment, of the members first appointed—

4 “(i) 6 members shall be appointed for
5 a term of 4 years;

6 “(ii) 5 members shall be appointed for
7 a term of 3 years; and

8 “(iii) 5 members shall be appointed
9 for a term of 2 years.

10 “(3) PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ADVISORY STA-
11 TUS.—No individual may be appointed as a discre-
12 tionary member of the Advisory Committee while
13 serving as an officer or employee of the Federal
14 Government.

15 “(4) VACANCY AND REMOVAL.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any vacancy on the
17 Advisory Committee shall be filled in the man-
18 ner in which the original appointment was
19 made.

20 “(B) REMOVAL.—Discretionary members
21 of the Advisory Committee shall serve at the
22 pleasure of the Secretaries. The Secretaries
23 may jointly remove such members at any time
24 for good cause.

1 “(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—Each dis-
2 cretionary member may continue to serve after the
3 expiration of the term of office to which such mem-
4 ber was appointed until a successor has been ap-
5 pointed.

6 “(6) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
7 Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a 3-year
8 term by the Secretaries, jointly, from among the
9 members of the Advisory Committee. An individual
10 may not be appointed as Chairperson for more than
11 2 terms.

12 “(7) PAY AND EXPENSES.—Members of the Ad-
13 visory Committee shall serve without pay for such
14 service, but each member of the Advisory Committee
15 may be reimbursed for travel and lodging incurred
16 through attending any meeting of the Advisory Com-
17 mittee or any other meeting of members approved
18 for reimbursement by the Advisory Committee in the
19 same amounts and under the same conditions as
20 Federal employees (in accordance with section 5703
21 of title 5, United States Code).

22 “(8) MEETINGS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Com-
24 mittee shall meet at the call of the Secretaries,

1 the chairperson, or a majority of the members,
2 but not less frequently than twice annually.

3 “(B) OPEN MEETINGS.—Each meeting of
4 the Advisory Committee shall be open to the
5 public.

6 “(C) PRIOR NOTICE OF MEETINGS.—Time-
7 ly notice of each meeting of the Advisory Com-
8 mittee shall be published in the Federal Reg-
9 ister and be submitted to trade publications and
10 publications of general circulation.

11 “(D) WORKGROUPS AND SUBGROUPS.—
12 The Advisory Committee may establish such
13 workgroups or subgroups as it considers nec-
14 essary for the purpose of compiling information
15 or conducting research. However, such
16 workgroups may not conduct business without
17 the direction of the Advisory Committee and
18 must report in full to the Advisory Committee.

19 “(9) QUORUM.—Nine members of the Advisory
20 Committee shall constitute a quorum.

21 “(d) EXPENSES.—The expenses of the Advisory
22 Committee that the Secretaries determine to be reasonable
23 and appropriate shall be paid by the Secretaries.

24 “(e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
25 ICES, AND ADVICE.—The Secretaries shall jointly appoint

1 a Federal officer to provide to the Advisory Committee
2 the administrative support, technical services, and advice
3 that the Secretaries determine to be reasonable and appro-
4 priate to carry out this Act.

5 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

6 “(1) REQUIRED.—Not later than September 30
7 of each year, the Advisory Committee shall submit
8 a report to the Secretaries, the Committee on Nat-
9 ural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of
10 the House of Representatives, and the Committee on
11 Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee
12 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
13 ate. If circumstances arise in which the Advisory
14 Committee cannot meet the September 30 deadline
15 in any year, the Secretaries shall advise the Chair of
16 each such Committee of the reasons for such delay
17 and the date on which the submission of the report
18 is anticipated.

19 “(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by para-
20 graph (1) shall describe—

21 “(A) the activities of the Advisory Com-
22 mittee during the preceding year;

23 “(B) the reports and recommendations
24 made by the Advisory Committee to the Secre-
25 taries during the preceding year; and

1 “(C) an accounting of actions taken by the
2 Secretaries as a result of the recommendations.

3 “(g) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The
4 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not
5 apply with respect to the Advisory Committee.”.

6 (b) CONTINUANCE AND ABOLISHMENT OF EXISTING
7 WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION
8 COUNCIL.—The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conserva-
9 tion Council established pursuant to section 441 of the
10 Revised Statutes (43 U.S.C. 1457), section 2 of the Fish
11 and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), and other Acts
12 applicable to specific bureaus of the Department of the
13 Interior—

14 (1) shall continue until the date of the first
15 meeting of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Con-
16 servation Advisory Committee established by the
17 amendment made by subsection (a); and

18 (2) is hereby abolished effective on that date.

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