

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2591

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2017

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. VEASEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, 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 “Modernizing the Pitt-
5 man-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The first section of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife
8 Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669) is amended by adding
9 at the end the following: “One of the purposes of this Act

1 is to provide financial and technical assistance to the
2 States for the promotion of hunting and recreational
3 shooting.”.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 Section 2 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restora-
6 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
8 (8) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively;
9 and

10 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(2) for the purposes of determining the num-
13 ber of paid hunting-license holders in a State, the
14 term ‘fiscal year’ means the fiscal year or license
15 year of the State;

16 “(3) the term ‘hunter recruitment and rec-
17 reational shooter recruitment’ means any activity or
18 project to recruit or retain hunters and recreational
19 shooters, including by—

20 “(A) using social media, marketing, adver-
21 tising, surveying, television spots, print, and
22 media;

23 “(B) providing education, mentoring, and
24 field demonstrations;

1 “(C) enhancing access for hunting and rec-
 2 reational shooting, including through range con-
 3 struction;

4 “(D) providing education to the public
 5 about the role of hunting and recreational
 6 shooting in funding wildlife conservation; and

7 “(E) using any other means to ensure the
 8 growth of hunting and recreational shooting, as
 9 determined by the Secretary;”.

10 **SEC. 4. ALLOCATION AND APPORTIONMENT OF AVAILABLE**
 11 **AMOUNTS.**

12 (a) APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.—Section 4(b) of
 13 the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16
 14 U.S.C. 669c(b)) is amended—

15 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Sec-
 16 retary of the Interior” and inserting the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

18 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “Such
 19 apportionments” and inserting the following:

20 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The apportionments
 21 under paragraph (1)”;

22 (3) by striking the third sentence; and

23 (4) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
 2 graph (B), amounts apportioned under this
 3 subsection may be used for hunter recruitment
 4 and recreational shooter recruitment.

5 “(B) LIMITATION.—A State may make an
 6 expenditure under subparagraph (A) only if the
 7 amount of the expenditure during the fiscal
 8 year in which the expenditure is made plus the
 9 amount of the expenditures for hunter recruit-
 10 ment and recreational shooter recruitment
 11 made during the 4 fiscal years preceding that
 12 fiscal year is not greater than 25 percent of the
 13 total amount apportioned to the State under
 14 this subsection during that 5-fiscal-year pe-
 15 riod.”.

16 (b) APPORTIONMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES.—The first
 17 subsection (c) of section 4 of the Pittman-Robertson Wild-
 18 life Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c) is amended—

19 (1) by inserting “APPORTIONMENT OF REVE-
 20 NUES FROM PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, BOWS, AND AR-
 21 ROWS.—” after the enumerator;

22 (2) by striking “One-half” and inserting the fol-
 23 lowing:

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ ”;

1 (3) by striking “: *Provided*, That” and inserting
2 a period;

3 (4) by striking “each State shall be apportioned
4 not more than 3 per centum and not less than 1 per
5 centum of such revenues” and inserting the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(2) CONDITION.—The amount apportioned to
8 each State under paragraph (1) shall be not greater
9 than 3 percent and not less than 1 percent of the
10 revenues described in such paragraph”;

11 (5) by striking “For the purpose” and inserting
12 the following:

13 “(3) POPULATION DETERMINATION.—For the
14 purpose”; and

15 (6) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—In addition to other uses
17 authorized under this Act, amounts apportioned
18 under this subsection may be used for hunter re-
19 cruitment and recreational shooter recruitment.”.

20 **SEC. 5. EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE**
21 **AREAS AND RESOURCES.**

22 Section 8 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restora-
23 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 669g) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a), in the third sentence, by
25 striking “and public relations”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by
 2 striking “, as a part of such program”.

3 **SEC. 6. FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFE-**
 4 **TY PROGRAM GRANTS.**

5 Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Pittman-Robertson Wild-
 6 life Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–1(a)(1)(A)) is
 7 amended—

8 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;
 9 and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(v) the enhancement of hunter re-
 12 cruitment and recreational shooter recruit-
 13 ment; and”.

14 **SEC. 7. MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

15 Section 11 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Res-
 16 toration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–2) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

18 (A) by striking “Not more than” and in-
 19 serting the following:

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not more than”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(B) AVAILABILITY FOR HUNTER AND
 23 RECREATIONAL SHOOTER GRANTS.—Not more
 24 than \$5,000,000 of the revenues covered into
 25 the fund from any tax imposed under section

1 4161(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
2 for a fiscal year shall be available to the Sec-
3 retary exclusively for making hunter recruit-
4 ment and recreational shooter recruitment
5 grants that promote a national hunting and
6 shooting sport recruitment program, including
7 related communication and outreach activi-
8 ties.”;

9 (2) in the matter preceding subsection
10 (b)(3)(A), by striking “International”;

11 (3) in the matter preceding subsection
12 (c)(2)(A)(i), by striking “International”;

13 (4) in subsection (c)(2)(A)(i), by inserting “or
14 to recreational shooting activities” after “wildlife”;
15 and

16 (5) in subsection (d), by inserting “or to rec-
17 reational shooting activities” after “wildlife”.

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