

Calendar No. 232

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1590

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2019

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CARPER, Mr. UDALL, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Reported by Mr. RISCH, without amendment

A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, 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 “Rescuing Animals
3 With Rewards Act of 2019” or the “RAWR Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Wildlife trafficking is a major transnational
7 crime that is estimated to generate over
8 \$10,000,000,000 a year in illegal profits and which
9 is increasingly perpetrated by organized, sophisti-
10 cated criminal enterprises, including known terrorist
11 organizations.

12 (2) Wildlife trafficking not only threatens en-
13 dangered species worldwide, but also jeopardizes
14 local security, spreads disease, undermines rule of
15 law, fuels corruption, and damages economic devel-
16 opment.

17 (3) Combating wildlife trafficking requires a co-
18 ordinated and sustained approach at the global, re-
19 gional, national, and local levels.

20 (4) Congress stated in the Eliminate, Neu-
21 tralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016
22 (Public Law 114–231) that it is the policy of the
23 United States to take immediate actions to stop the
24 illegal global trade in wildlife and wildlife products
25 and associated transnational organized crime.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that the Department of State’s rewards program is
3 a powerful tool in combating sophisticated international
4 crime and that the Department of State and Federal law
5 enforcement should work in concert to offer rewards that
6 target wildlife traffickers.

7 **SEC. 3. WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING PREVENTION REWARDS**
8 **PROGRAM.**

9 Subparagraph (B) of section 36(k)(5) of the State
10 Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.
11 2708(k)(5)) is amended by inserting “wildlife trafficking
12 (as defined by section 2(12) of the Eliminate, Neutralize,
13 and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (16 U.S.C.
14 7601(12); Public Law 114–231)) and” after “includes”.

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