

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2194

To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to establish the Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2019

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to establish the Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict, 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 “Promoting Resourceful
5 and Effective Deterrents Against Threats Or Risks involv-
6 ing Species Act” or the “PREDATORS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR REDUC-**
 2 **ING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7001(d) of the John D.
 4 Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation
 5 Act (16 U.S.C. 742b note; Public Law 116–9) is amend-
 6 ed—

7 (1) in paragraphs (2)(C)(v), (3)(C)(v),
 8 (4)(C)(v), (5)(C)(v), and (6)(C)(v), by striking
 9 “paragraph (7)(A)” each place it appears and in-
 10 serting “paragraph (8)(A)”;

11 (2) in paragraphs (2)(D)(ii), (2)(F)(ii),
 12 (3)(D)(ii), (3)(F)(ii), (4)(D)(ii), (4)(F)(ii),
 13 (5)(D)(ii), (5)(F)(ii), (6)(D)(ii), and (6)(F)(ii) by
 14 striking “paragraph (7)(B)” each place it appears
 15 and inserting “paragraph (8)(B)”;

16 (3) in paragraph (6)(C)(iv), in the matter pre-
 17 ceding clause (i), by striking “subparagraph (C)”
 18 and inserting “clause (iii)”;

19 (4) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
 20 graph (8);

21 (5) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
 22 lowing:

23 “(7) THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE
 24 FOR REDUCING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.—

25 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

1 “(i) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’
2 means the Reducing Human-Predator Con-
3 flict Technology Advisory Board estab-
4 lished by subparagraph (C)(i).

5 “(ii) PRIZE COMPETITION.—The term
6 ‘prize competition’ means the Theodore
7 Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing
8 human-predator conflict established under
9 subparagraph (B).

10 “(B) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 180
11 days after the date of enactment of the PRED-
12 ATORS Act, the Secretary shall establish under
13 section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology
14 Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a
15 prize competition, to be known as the ‘Theodore
16 Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-
17 predator conflict’—

18 “(i) to encourage technological innova-
19 tion with the potential to advance the mis-
20 sion of the United States Fish and Wildlife
21 Service with respect to reducing the fre-
22 quency of human-predator conflict using
23 nonlethal means; and

24 “(ii) to award 1 or more prizes annu-
25 ally for a technological advancement that

1 promotes reducing human-predator conflict
2 using nonlethal means, which may include
3 the application and monitoring of tagging
4 technologies.

5 “(C) ADVISORY BOARD.—

6 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is es-
7 tablished an advisory board, to be known
8 as the ‘Reducing Human-Predator Conflict
9 Technology Advisory Board’.

10 “(ii) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall
11 be composed of not fewer than 9 members
12 appointed by the Secretary, who shall pro-
13 vide expertise in—

14 “(I) predator-human interactions;

15 “(II) the habitats of large preda-
16 tors;

17 “(III) biology;

18 “(IV) technology development;

19 “(V) engineering;

20 “(VI) economics;

21 “(VII) business development and
22 management; and

23 “(VIII) any other discipline, as
24 the Secretary determines to be nec-

1 essary to achieve the purposes of this
2 paragraph.

3 “(iii) DUTIES.—Subject to clause (iv),
4 with respect to the prize competition, the
5 Board shall—

6 “(I) select a topic;

7 “(II) issue a problem statement;

8 “(III) advise the Secretary re-
9 garding any opportunity for techno-
10 logical innovation to reduce human-
11 predator conflict using nonlethal
12 means; and

13 “(IV) advise winners of the prize
14 competition regarding opportunities to
15 pilot and implement winning tech-
16 nologies in relevant fields, including in
17 partnership with conservation organi-
18 zations, Federal or State agencies,
19 federally recognized Indian Tribes,
20 private entities, and research institu-
21 tions with expertise or interest relat-
22 ing to reducing human-predator con-
23 flict using nonlethal means.

24 “(iv) CONSULTATION.—In selecting a
25 topic and issuing a problem statement for

1 the prize competition under subclauses (I)
2 and (II) of clause (iii), respectively, the
3 Board shall consult widely with Federal
4 and non-Federal stakeholders, including—

5 “(I) 1 or more Federal agencies
6 with jurisdiction over the management
7 of native wildlife species at risk due to
8 conflict with human activities;

9 “(II) 1 or more State agencies
10 with jurisdiction over the management
11 of native wildlife species at risk due to
12 conflict with human activities;

13 “(III) 1 or more State, regional,
14 or local wildlife organizations, the
15 mission of which relates to the man-
16 agement of native wildlife species at
17 risk due to conflict with human activi-
18 ties; and

19 “(IV) 1 or more wildlife con-
20 servation groups, technology compa-
21 nies, research institutions, institutions
22 of higher education, industry associa-
23 tions, or individual stakeholders with
24 an interest in the management of na-

1 tive wildlife species at risk due to con-
2 flict with human activities.

3 “(v) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board
4 shall comply with all requirements under
5 paragraph (8)(A).

6 “(D) AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL FISH
7 AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
9 shall offer to enter into an agreement
10 under which the National Fish and Wild-
11 life Foundation shall administer the prize
12 competition.

13 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—An agreement
14 entered into under clause (i) shall comply
15 with all requirements under paragraph
16 (8)(B).

17 “(E) JUDGES.—

18 “(i) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary
19 shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who
20 shall, except as provided in clause (ii), se-
21 lect the 1 or more annual winners of the
22 prize competition.

23 “(ii) DETERMINATION BY SEC-
24 RETARY.—The judges appointed under
25 clause (i) shall not select any annual win-

1 ner of the prize competition if the Sec-
2 retary makes a determination that, in any
3 fiscal year, none of the technological ad-
4 vancements entered into the prize competi-
5 tion merits an award.

6 “(F) CONSULTATION WITH NOAA.—The
7 Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of
8 Commerce, acting through the Administrator of
9 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
10 istration, in the case of a cash prize awarded
11 under the prize competition for a technology
12 that addresses conflict between marine preda-
13 tors under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of
14 Commerce, acting through the Administrator of
15 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-
16 istration, and humans.

17 “(G) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
18 than 60 days after the date on which a cash
19 prize is awarded under this paragraph, the Sec-
20 retary shall submit to the Committee on Envi-
21 ronment and Public Works of the Senate and
22 the Committee on Natural Resources of the
23 House of Representatives a report on the prize
24 competition that includes—

1 “(i) a statement by the Board that
2 describes the activities carried out by the
3 Board relating to the duties described in
4 subparagraph (C)(iii);

5 “(ii) if the Secretary has entered into
6 an agreement under subparagraph (D)(i),
7 a statement by the National Fish and
8 Wildlife Foundation that describes the ac-
9 tivities carried out by the National Fish
10 and Wildlife Foundation relating to the du-
11 ties described in paragraph (8)(B); and

12 “(iii) a statement by 1 or more of the
13 judges appointed under subparagraph (E)
14 that explains the basis on which the winner
15 of the cash prize was selected.

16 “(H) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The
17 Board and all authority provided under this
18 paragraph shall terminate on December 31,
19 2023.”; and

20 (6) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
22 preceding clause (i), by striking “or (6)(C)(i)”
23 and inserting “(6)(C)(i), or (7)(C)(i)”; and

24 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
2 by striking “or (6)(D)(i)” and inserting
3 “(6)(D)(i), or (7)(D)(i)”; and

4 (ii) in clause (i)(VII), by striking
5 “and (6)(E)” and inserting “(6)(E), and
6 (7)(E)”.

7 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that data collected from the tagging of predators can
9 inform innovative management of those predators and in-
10 novative education activities to minimize human-predator
11 conflict.

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