

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5578

To restrict the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and Conibear traps on animals  
in the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 15, 2021

Ms. ADAMS (for herself and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, 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

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## A BILL

To restrict the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and Conibear  
traps on animals in the United States.

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 “Public Safety and  
5 Wildlife Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States to reduce risks  
8 to public safety, as well as unnecessary harm to com-

panion animals and wildlife, from indiscriminate and injurious trapping methods by prohibiting the import or export of, and the shipment in interstate commerce of, steel-jaw leghold traps and Conibear traps.

**SEC. 3. PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES.**

(a) PROHIBITED ACTS.—It shall be unlawful for any person—

(1) to import, export, deliver, carry, or transport by any means whatever, in interstate commerce, any steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap; or

(2) to sell, receive, acquire, or purchase any steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap that was delivered, carried, or transported in violation of paragraph (1).

(b) PENALTIES.—Whoever knowingly violates subsection (a) shall, in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed, be subject to the following:

(1) For the first such violation, a civil fine of not more than \$500 imposed by the Secretary for each steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap possessed.

(2) For each subsequent violation, a civil fine of not more than \$1,000 imposed by the Secretary for each steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap pos-

1       sessed, or imprisonment for not more than 2 years,  
2       or both.

3       (c) PAYMENT OF COURT COSTS AND OTHER ASSOCI-  
4       ATED EXPENSES.—A person found to be in violation of  
5       subsection (a) shall pay all court costs associated there-  
6       with.

7       **SEC. 4. REWARDS.**

8       (a) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary shall pay, to  
9       any person who furnishes information that leads to a con-  
10      viction of a violation of any provision of this Act or any  
11      rule made under this Act, an amount equal to one-half  
12      of the fine paid pursuant to the conviction.

13      (b) EXCEPTION.—Any officer or employee of the  
14      United States or of any State or local government who  
15      furnishes information or renders service in the perform-  
16      ance of his or her official duties is not eligible for payment  
17      under this section.

18      **SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT.**

19      (a) IN GENERAL.—Except with respect to violations  
20      of this Act to which subsection (b) applies, this Act and  
21      any rules made under this Act shall be enforced by the  
22      Secretary, who may use by agreement, with or without re-  
23      imbursement, the personnel, services, and facilities of any  
24      other Federal agency or any State agency for purposes  
25      of enforcing this Act and such rules.

1 (b) IMPORT AND EXPORT VIOLATIONS.—

2 (1) IMPORT VIOLATIONS.—The importation of  
3 articles in violation of section 3(a) shall be treated  
4 as a violation of the customs laws of the United  
5 States, and those provisions of law relating to viola-  
6 tions of the customs laws of the United States shall  
7 apply thereto.

8 (2) EXPORT VIOLATIONS.—The authorities  
9 under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50  
10 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), including penalties, shall be  
11 used to enforce the provisions of this Act relating to  
12 the export of articles in violation of section 3(a).

13 (c) FORFEITURE.—

14 (1) GENERAL RULE.—Except with respect to  
15 exports to which the provisions of the Export Con-  
16 trol Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.)  
17 apply, and imports to which the customs laws of the  
18 United States apply, pursuant to subsection (b), any  
19 steel-jaw leghold trap or Conibear trap taken, pos-  
20 sessed, sold, purchased, offered for sale or purchase,  
21 imported, exported, transported, delivered, received,  
22 carried, or shipped in violation of this Act or any  
23 rule made under this Act, shall be subject to for-  
24 feiture to the United States. Those provisions of law  
25 relating to—

1 (A) the seizure, summary and judicial for-  
2 feiture, and condemnation of property for viola-  
3 tions of the customs laws of the United States;

4 (B) the disposition of such property or the  
5 proceeds from the sale thereof;

6 (C) the remission or mitigation of such for-  
7 feitures; and

8 (D) the compromise of claims,  
9 shall apply to seizures and forfeitures incurred, or  
10 alleged to have been incurred, under the provisions  
11 of this subsection, insofar as applicable and not in-  
12 consistent with this Act.

13 (2) ENFORCEMENT.—Such duties as are im-  
14 posed upon the customs officer or any other person  
15 with respect to the seizure and forfeiture of property  
16 under the customs laws of the United States may be  
17 performed with respect to seizures and forfeitures of  
18 property under this subsection by the Secretary or  
19 such officers and employees as may be authorized or  
20 designated for that purpose by the Secretary, or,  
21 upon the request of the Secretary, by any other  
22 agency that has authority to manage and dispose of  
23 seized property.

24 (d) INJUNCTIONS.—The Attorney General of the  
25 United States may seek to enjoin any person who is al-

1 leged to be in violation of this Act or any rule made under  
2 this Act.

3 (e) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Commerce, the  
4 Secretary of the Treasury, and the head of any other de-  
5 partment or agency with enforcement responsibilities  
6 under this Act shall cooperate with the Secretary in ensur-  
7 ing that this Act, and rules made under this Act, are en-  
8 forced in the most effective and efficient manner.

9 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) STEEL-JAW LEGHOLD TRAP.—The term  
12 “steel-jaw leghold trap”—

13 (A) means any spring-powered pan or sear-  
14 activated device with one or two opposing steel  
15 jaws, whether the jaws are smooth, toothed,  
16 padded, enclosed (dog-proof), or offset, that is  
17 designed to capture an animal by snapping  
18 closed upon the animal’s limb, foot, or part  
19 thereof; and

20 (B) does not include any cage or box trap;  
21 suitcase-type live beaver trap; or mouse or rat  
22 snap trap.

23 (2) CONIBEAR TRAP.—The term “Conibear  
24 trap”—

1 (A) means any trap consisting of two  
2 metal frames hinged at the center point and  
3 powered by two torsion springs to create a scis-  
4 sor-like action designed to kill an animal by  
5 snapping an animal’s spinal column; and

6 (B) does not include any cage or box trap;  
7 suitcase-type live beaver trap; mouse or rat  
8 snap trap.

9 (3) CUSTOMS LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.—  
10 The term “customs laws of the United States”  
11 means any law or regulation enforced or adminis-  
12 tered by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
13 with respect to the importation of goods into the  
14 customs territory of the United States.

15 (4) IMPORT.—The term “import” means to  
16 land on, bring into, or introduce into, any place sub-  
17 ject to the jurisdiction of the United States, whether  
18 or not such landing, bringing, or introduction con-  
19 stitutes an entry into the customs territory of the  
20 United States.

21 (5) INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—The term “inter-  
22 state commerce” has the meaning given such term  
23 in section 10 of title 18, United States Code.

24 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 7. RULEMAKING.**

2       The Secretary may make rules to carry out this Act.

3 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4       This Act shall take effect 1 year after the date of  
5 the enactment of this Act.

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