

Calendar No. 119

111TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
111-54

THE CRANE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2009

JULY 20, 2009.—Ordered to be printed

Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 388]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 388) to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSES OF THE LEGISLATION

H.R. 388 would provide financial assistance to conserve cranes. The bill would establish a Crane Conservation Fund as an account within the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

Wildlife populations across the globe have been in decline due to many stresses. To help address this problem, Congress established conservation funds for individual species or groups of species—the Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF).

Under the MSCF, Federal resources provide financial assistance to support international conservation efforts to help wildlife. By providing resources to keystone wildlife species, other wildlife—and their habitat and ecosystems—can also be protected and conserved.

Under this bill, cranes become eligible for assistance under the MSCF.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

This section provides that the bill may be cited as the “Crane Conservation Act of 2009.”

Section 2. Purposes

This section provides that the purposes of the bill are to provide financial resources to assist in the restoration and conservation of populations of cranes in the wild.

Section 3. Definitions

This section defines specific terms in the legislation.

Section 4. Crane conservation assistance

This section authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance for projects that conserve cranes and specifies eligible project applicants and required information for project applications.

Section 5. Crane Conservation Fund

This section authorizes the establishment of a Crane Conservation Fund within the Multinational Species Conservation Fund.

Section 6. Advisory group

This section authorizes the Secretary to convene an advisory group to assist in carrying out the purposes and requirements of this Act.

Section 7. Funding

The legislation would authorize \$5 million per year of appropriations for each fiscal year from 2010 to 2014.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In the 110th Congress, similar legislation, H.R. 1771, was introduced by Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and passed the House of Representatives on May 21, 2008. Companion legislation was introduced by Senator Russ Feingold. H.R. 1771 was received, read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The Committee ordered the bill reported favorably by voice vote on September 17, 2008.

H.R. 388 was introduced on January 9, 2009 by Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate by Senator Russ Feingold on January 9, 2009. H.R. 388 passed the House of Representatives on April 21, 2009 and was received, read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 22, 2009. The Committee met on May 14, 2009, when H.R. 388 was ordered reported favorably by voice vote.

ROLLCALL VOTES

There were no rollcall votes. The measure was approved by the Committee on Environment and Public Works at a business meeting, a quorum being present, by voice vote on May 14, 2009.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with section 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee finds that H.R. 80 does not create any additional regulatory burdens, nor will it cause any adverse impact on the personal privacy of individuals.

MANDATES ASSESSMENT

In compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4), the Committee noted that the Congressional Budget Office has found, “H.R. 388 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.”

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

MAY 19, 2009.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act of 2009.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

H.R. 388—Crane Conservation Act of 2009

Summary: H.R. 388 would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to establish a grant program to protect and conserve wild cranes. The act would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 for financial assistance to eligible government agencies, international or foreign organizations, or private entities engaged in such activities. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 388 would increase discretionary spending by \$19 million over the 2010–2014 period and by \$6 million after 2014.

The act also would authorize the USFWS to collect and spend donations from non-federal sources, but CBO estimates that any new offsetting receipts and associated direct spending would be minimal and would have no net effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 388 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 388 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010– 2014
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	5	5	5	5	5	25
Estimated Outlays	2	3	4	5	5	19

Basis of Estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that the authorized amounts will be provided as specified in the act. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 388 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Deborah Reis; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Ryan Miller; Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz.

Estimate approved by: Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee notes that no changes to existing law are made by this bill.

