

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5040

To direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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

A BILL

To direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression, 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 “Aerial Incursion Re-
5 percussion Safety Act of 2019” or the “AIR Safety Act
6 of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF DRONE INCURSIONS ON**
2 **WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.**

3 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Director of the Bureau
4 of Land Management, in consultation with the Chief of
5 the Forest Service, shall conduct a study on the effects
6 of drone incursions on the suppression of wildfires with
7 respect to lands managed by the Department of the Inte-
8 rior or the Department of Agriculture.

9 (b) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study re-
10 quired under subsection (a), the Director shall—

11 (1) determine, for each of the five most recently
12 completed calendar years, the number of occurrences
13 in which a drone incursion interfered with wildfire
14 suppression and the effect of each such occurrence
15 on—

16 (A) the length of time required to achieve
17 complete suppression;

18 (B) the effectiveness of aerial firefighting
19 responses; and

20 (C) the amounts expended by the Federal
21 Government; and

22 (2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of
23 various actions to prevent drone incursions, includ-
24 ing—

25 (A) the use of reasonable force to disable,
26 damage, or destroy a drone;

1 (B) the seizure of a drone, including sei-
2 zure with a net device; and

3 (C) the dissemination of education mate-
4 rials relating to the effects of drone incursions
5 on wildfire suppression.

6 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall sub-
8 mit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House
9 of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
10 Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings
11 of the study required under subsection (a) and any rec-
12 ommendations of the Director relating to such findings.

13 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) DRONE.—The term “drone” means an un-
15 manned aircraft system owned by a private indi-
16 vidual or entity.

17 (2) DRONE INCURSION.—The term “drone in-
18 cursion” means the operation of a drone within any
19 airspace for which the Administrator of the Federal
20 Aviation Administration has issued a temporary
21 flight restriction because of a wildfire.

22 (3) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—The term “wild-
23 fire suppression” has the meaning given such term
24 in section 46320(d) of title 49, United States Code.

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