

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 788

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. WALZ, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. COMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LATTI, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MAST, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. POLIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain 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 “Target Practice and
5 Marksmanship Training Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) the use of firearms and archery equipment
4 for target practice and marksmanship training ac-
5 tivities on Federal land is allowed, except to the ex-
6 tent specific portions of that land have been closed
7 to those activities;

8 (2) in recent years preceding the date of enact-
9 ment of this Act, portions of Federal land have been
10 closed to target practice and marksmanship training
11 for many reasons;

12 (3) the availability of public target ranges on
13 non-Federal land has been declining for a variety of
14 reasons, including continued population growth and
15 development near former ranges;

16 (4) providing opportunities for target practice
17 and marksmanship training at public target ranges
18 on Federal and non-Federal land can help—

19 (A) to promote enjoyment of shooting, rec-
20 reational, and hunting activities; and

21 (B) to ensure safe and convenient locations
22 for those activities;

23 (5) Federal law in effect on the date of enact-
24 ment of this Act, including the Pittman-Robertson
25 Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.),
26 provides Federal support for construction and ex-

1 pansion of public target ranges by making available
2 to States amounts that may be used for construc-
3 tion, operation, and maintenance of public target
4 ranges; and

5 (6) it is in the public interest to provide in-
6 creased Federal support to facilitate the construction
7 or expansion of public target ranges.

8 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to facili-
9 tate the construction and expansion of public target
10 ranges, including ranges on Federal land managed by the
11 Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF PUBLIC TARGET RANGE.**

13 In this Act, the term “public target range” means
14 a specific location that—

15 (1) is identified by a governmental agency for
16 recreational shooting;

17 (2) is open to the public;

18 (3) may be supervised; and

19 (4) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or
20 shotgun shooting.

21 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE**
22 **RESTORATION ACT.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Pittman-Robert-
24 son Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
2 (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(2) the term ‘public target range’ means a
6 specific location that—

7 “(A) is identified by a governmental agen-
8 cy for recreational shooting;

9 “(B) is open to the public;

10 “(C) may be supervised; and

11 “(D) may accommodate archery or rifle,
12 pistol, or shotgun shooting;”.

13 (b) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILD-
14 LIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—Section 8(b) of the Pitt-
15 man-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C.
16 669g(b)) is amended—

17 (1) by striking “(b) Each State” and inserting
18 the following:

19 “(b) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILD-
20 LIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
22 graph (2), each State”;

23 (2) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
24 striking “construction, operation,” and inserting
25 “operation”;

1 (3) in the second sentence, by striking “The
2 non-Federal share” and inserting the following:

3 “(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal
4 share”;

5 (4) in the third sentence, by striking “The Sec-
6 retary” and inserting the following:

7 “(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary”; and

8 (5) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as des-
9 igned by paragraph (1) of this subsection) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding the limita-
12 tion described in paragraph (1), a State may pay up
13 to 90 percent of the cost of acquiring land for, ex-
14 panding, or constructing a public target range.”.

15 (c) FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND
16 SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS.—Section 10 of the Pittman-
17 Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–1)
18 is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
20 following:

21 “(3) ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—
22 Of the amount apportioned to a State for any fiscal
23 year under section 4(b), the State may elect to allo-
24 cate not more than 10 percent, to be combined with
25 the amount apportioned to the State under para-

1 graph (1) for that fiscal year, for acquiring land for,
2 expanding, or constructing a public target range.”;

3 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(b) COST SHARING.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
7 graph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activ-
8 ity carried out using a grant under this section shall
9 not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the activ-
10 ity.

11 “(2) PUBLIC TARGET RANGE CONSTRUCTION OR
12 EXPANSION.—The Federal share of the cost of ac-
13 quiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public
14 target range in a State on Federal or non-Federal
15 land pursuant to this section or section 8(b) shall
16 not exceed 90 percent of the cost of the activity.”;
17 and

18 (3) in subsection (c)(1)—

19 (A) by striking “Amounts made” and in-
20 serting the following:

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
22 subparagraph (B), amounts made”; and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Amounts provided for
25 acquiring land for, constructing, or expanding a

1 public target range shall remain available for
2 expenditure and obligation during the 5-fiscal-
3 year period beginning on October 1 of the first
4 fiscal year for which the amounts are made
5 available.”.

6 **SEC. 5. LIMITS ON LIABILITY.**

7 (a) DISCRETIONARY FUNCTION.—For purposes of
8 chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly
9 referred to as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”), any action
10 by an agent or employee of the United States to manage
11 or allow the use of Federal land for purposes of target
12 practice or marksmanship training by a member of the
13 public shall be considered to be the exercise or perform-
14 ance of a discretionary function.

15 (b) CIVIL ACTION OR CLAIMS.—Except to the extent
16 provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code,
17 the United States shall not be subject to any civil action
18 or claim for money damages for any injury to or loss of
19 property, personal injury, or death caused by an activity
20 occurring at a public target range that is—

- 21 (1) funded in whole or in part by the Federal
22 Government pursuant to the Pittman-Robertson
23 Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.); or
24 (2) located on Federal land.

1 **SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING COOPERATION.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that, consistent with appli-
3 cable laws and regulations, the Chief of the Forest Service
4 and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management
5 should cooperate with State and local authorities and
6 other entities to carry out waste removal and other activi-
7 ties on any Federal land used as a public target range
8 to encourage continued use of that land for target practice
9 or marksmanship training.

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