

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5064

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an interagency task force to examine animal disease transmission, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Mr. HAGEDORN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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 Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an interagency task force to examine animal disease transmission, 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 “Animal Disease Sur-
5 veillance and Detection Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) It is in the national security interest of the
2 United States to prevent foreign animal diseases,
3 such as the deadly African swine fever, from enter-
4 ing our borders, devastating the agricultural econ-
5 omy, and impacting the animal protein and grain
6 producers, which may occur through contaminated
7 meat products and livestock feeds entering United
8 States ports of entry.

9 (2) To prevent foreign animal diseases from en-
10 tering United States borders, the Secretary of Agri-
11 culture and the Secretary of Homeland Security
12 need to maximize interagency coordination to inspect
13 all international shipments and travel via airplane
14 and/or ship from countries identified by the World
15 Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and/or Food
16 and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

17 (3) Adequate resources should be provided by
18 the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of
19 Homeland Security to conduct inspections at the
20 ports of entry for incoming raw food products, raw
21 processed, and finished meat products, or goods
22 used in agriculture, including livestock feeds and
23 feed ingredients.

1 **SEC. 3. INCREASING SURVEILLANCE OF AND INSPECTIONS**
2 **FOR ANIMAL DISEASE TRANSMISSION.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE
4 TO INCREASE SURVEILLANCE OF AND INSPECTIONS FOR
5 ANIMAL DISEASE TRANSMISSION.—The Secretary of Ag-
6 riculture, acting through the Under Secretary of Mar-
7 keting and Regulatory Programs (in this Act referred to
8 as the “Under Secretary”), and the Secretary of Home-
9 land Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S.
10 Customs and Border Protection (in this Act referred to
11 as the “Commissioner”), shall establish an interagency
12 task force to provide recommendations—

13 (1) for inspection requirements for flights and
14 shipments arriving in the United States from af-
15 fected countries for contaminated processed or raw
16 food products, raw processed, and finished meat
17 products, or goods used in agriculture, including
18 livestock feeds and feed ingredients;

19 (2) to enhance detection protocols of African
20 swine fever in case of outbreak; and

21 (3) to report quarterly on the number of
22 stopped shipments, what was contained in the ship-
23 ment, intended use of products in the shipments,
24 and what was the origin and end location of stopped
25 shipments.

1 (b) ADDITIONAL U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PRO-
2 TECTION PERSONNEL AT PORTS OF ENTRY.—

3 (1) AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS.—The Commis-
4 sioner shall, each fiscal year, hire, train, and assign
5 not fewer than 240 new agriculture specialists above
6 the attrition level for the immediately preceding fis-
7 cal year until the total number of agriculture spe-
8 cialists equals and sustains the requirements identi-
9 fied each year in the Agriculture Resource Allocation
10 Model.

11 (2) MISSION AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
12 STAFF.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner
14 shall hire, train, and assign support staff to
15 support agriculture specialists.

16 (B) AGRICULTURE TECHNICIANS.—The
17 Commissioner shall, each fiscal year, hire, train,
18 and assign not fewer than 200 new agriculture
19 technicians until the total number of agriculture
20 technicians equals and sustains the require-
21 ments identified each year in the Mission and
22 Operational Support Resource Allocation Model.

23 (3) AGRICULTURE CANINE TEAMS.—The Com-
24 missioner shall hire, train, and assign not fewer than

1 20 new agriculture canine teams for each of fiscal
2 years 2021 through 2022.

3 (4) TRAFFIC FORECASTS.—In calculating the
4 number of agriculture specialists needed at each port
5 of entry, the Commissioner shall—

6 (A) rely on data collected by U.S. Customs
7 and Border Protection personnel at each such
8 port of entry with respect to inspections and
9 other related activities, including data with re-
10 spect to African swine fever;

11 (B) rely on data collected by U.S. Depart-
12 ment of Agriculture office of Smuggling Inter-
13 diction and Trade Compliance; and

14 (C) consider volume from seasonal surges,
15 other projected changes in commercial and pas-
16 senger volumes, the most current commercial
17 forecasts, and other relevant information.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture,
20 acting through the Under Secretary and the Secretary of
21 Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner,
22 shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the following:

23 (1) The efforts of the interagency task force es-
24 tablished under subsection (a) to increase detection
25 and prevention activities with respect to African

1 swine fever, including the number of flights and
2 shipments inspected.

3 (2) The enhancement of detection capabilities
4 described under subsection (a)(1).

5 (3) The number of new U.S. Customs and Bor-
6 der Protection personnel hired pursuant to sub-
7 section (b).

8 (4) Educational plans to inform the public on
9 affected countries, current testing protocols, and
10 food safety issues of the disease.

11 (5) Current regulatory overlaps that help or
12 deter detection and prevention of the disease.

13 (6) Overview of importing/exporting countries
14 sanitary and phytosanitary measures that pose a
15 high risk of transmitting this disease.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17 (1) U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
18 AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS.—There is authorized to
19 be appropriated to carry out subsection (b)(1)—

20 (A) \$36,100,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

21 (B) \$40,500,000 for fiscal year 2022.

22 (2) U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
23 AGRICULTURE TECHNICIAN.—There is authorized to
24 be appropriated to carry out subsection (b)(2)—

25 (A) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

1 (B) \$38,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

2 (3) U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
3 AGRICULTURE CANINE TEAMS.—There is authorized
4 to be appropriated to carry out subsection (b)(3)—

5 (A) \$7,400,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

6 (B) \$12,200,000 for fiscal year 2022.

7 (4) TRAINING.—There is authorized to be ap-
8 propriated for training costs associated with new
9 personnel and canine teams hired pursuant to para-
10 graphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b)
11 \$6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021, 2022,
12 and 2023.

13 (e) AFFECTED COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this section,
14 the term “affected country” means a country identified
15 by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and/
16 or Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as having
17 an outbreak of African swine fever.

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