

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5040

[Report No. 116-]

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

AUGUST --, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on November 12, 2019]

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 Reper-*
5 *cussion Safety Act of 2020” or the “AIR Safety Act of*
6 *2020”.*

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

9 (a) *STUDY REQUIRED.*—*The Director of the Bureau*
10 *of Land Management, in consultation with the Chief of the*
11 *Forest Service and the National Association of State For-*
12 *esters, shall conduct a study on the effects of drone incur-*
13 *sions on the suppression of wildfires with respect to lands*
14 *managed by the Department of the Interior or the Depart-*
15 *ment of Agriculture.*

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

18 (1) *determine, for each of the five most recently*
19 *completed calendar years, the number of occurrences*
20 *in which a drone incursion interfered with wildfire*
21 *suppression and the effect of each such occurrence*
22 *on—*

23 (A) *the length of time required to achieve*
24 *complete suppression;*

1 (B) the effectiveness of aerial firefighting re-
2 sponses; and

3 (C) the amounts expended by the Federal
4 Government; and

5 (2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of
6 various actions to prevent drone incursions, includ-
7 ing—

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

10 (B) the seizure of a drone, including seizure
11 with a net device; and

12 (C) the dissemination of education mate-
13 rials relating to the effects of drone incursions on
14 wildfire suppression.

15 (c) *REPORT.*—Not later than 18 months after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to
17 the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
19 sources of the Senate a report on the findings of the study
20 required under subsection (a) and any recommendations of
21 the Director relating to such findings.

22 (d) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

23 (1) *DRONE.*—The term “drone” means an un-
24 manned aircraft system owned by a private indi-
25 vidual or entity.

1 (2) *DRONE INCURSION.*—*The term “drone incur-*
2 *sion” means the operation of a drone within any air-*
3 *space for which the Administrator of the Federal*
4 *Aviation Administration has issued a temporary*
5 *flight restriction because of a wildfire.*

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