Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 5040, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

116TH CONGRESS
2D 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 2020” or the “AIR Safety Act
6 of 2020”.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SEC. 2. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF DRONE INCURSIONS ON WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.

(a) Study Required.—The Director of the Bureau of Land Management, in consultation with the Chief of the Forest Service, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Association of State Foresters, shall conduct a study on the effects of drone incursions on the suppression of wildfires with respect to lands managed by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture.

(b) Study Contents.—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Director shall—

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

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

(B) the effectiveness of aerial firefighting responses; and

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

(2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of various actions to prevent drone incursions, including—
(A) temporary flight restrictions of the
Federal Aviation Administration; and
(B) the dissemination of education mate-
rials relating to the effects of drone incursions
on wildfire suppression.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall sub-
mit to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Com-
mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the
findings of the study required under subsection (a) and
any recommendations of the Director relating to such
findings.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DRONE.—The term “drone” means an un-
manned aircraft system, as defined in section 44801
of title 49, United States Code, owned by a private
individual or entity.

(2) DRONE INCURSION.—The term “drone in-
cursion” means the operation of a drone within any
airspace for which the Administrator of the Federal
Aviation Administration has issued a temporary
flight restriction because of a wildfire.
(3) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—The term “wildfire suppression” has the meaning given such term in section 46320(d) of title 49, United States Code.