

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
2^D 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”.

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, the Administrator of the Federal Avia-
6 tion Administration, and the National Association of State
7 Foresters, shall conduct a study on the effects of drone
8 incursions on the suppression of wildfires with respect to
9 lands managed by the Department of the Interior or the
10 Department of Agriculture.

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

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

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

20 (B) the effectiveness of aerial firefighting
21 responses; and

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

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

1 (A) temporary flight restrictions of the
2 Federal Aviation Administration; and

3 (B) 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 and the Com-
9 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
10 of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and
11 Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce,
12 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the
13 findings of the study required under subsection (a) and
14 any recommendations of the Director relating to such
15 findings.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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