

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1590

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2019

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, 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 “Rescuing Animals  
5 With Rewards Act of 2019” or the “RAWR Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Wildlife trafficking is a major transnational  
2 crime that is estimated to generate over  
3 \$10,000,000,000 a year in illegal profits and which  
4 is increasingly perpetrated by organized, sophisti-  
5 cated criminal enterprises, including known terrorist  
6 organizations.

7           (2) Wildlife trafficking not only threatens en-  
8 dangered species worldwide, but also jeopardizes  
9 local security, spreads disease, undermines rule of  
10 law, fuels corruption, and damages economic devel-  
11 opment.

12           (3) Combating wildlife trafficking requires a co-  
13 ordinated and sustained approach at the global, re-  
14 gional, national, and local levels.

15           (4) Congress stated in the Eliminate, Neu-  
16 tralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016  
17 (Public Law 114–231) that it is the policy of the  
18 United States to take immediate actions to stop the  
19 illegal global trade in wildlife and wildlife products  
20 and associated transnational organized crime.

21           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
22 gress that the Department of State’s rewards program is  
23 a powerful tool in combating sophisticated international  
24 crime and that the Department of State and Federal law

1 enforcement should work in concert to offer rewards that  
2 target wildlife traffickers.

3 **SEC. 3. WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING PREVENTION REWARDS**  
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 Subparagraph (B) of section 36(k)(5) of the State  
6 Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.  
7 2708(k)(5)) is amended by inserting “wildlife trafficking  
8 (as defined by section 2(12) of the Eliminate, Neutralize,  
9 and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (16 U.S.C.  
10 7601(12); Public Law 114–231)) and” after “includes”.

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