

S 357

Wildlife Disease Emergency Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Animals

Introduced: Feb 15, 2011

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 515.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 515. (Sep 19, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/357>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 15, 2011
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Feb 15, 2011
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Feb 15, 2011
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 12, 2011
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		May 5, 2011

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Apr 24, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Animals

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Wildlife Disease Emergency Act of 2011 - (Sec. 4) Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the governor of a potentially affected state, to declare in such state a wildlife disease emergency for a disease that affects wildlife: (1) within the United States; or (2) outside the United States, but with the potential to enter the United States.

Requires the Secretary, in making such a declaration, to consider: (1) the level of threat the disease poses to affected wildlife populations; (2) the sufficiency of resources available in the fund established by this Act; (3) the ability of the Department of the Interior and other agencies, tribal governments, and other stakeholders to address and coordinate a response to the disease through other means; and (4) the request of any state governor to make such a declaration.

Directs the Secretary, upon making such a declaration, to lead a coordinated response to the emergency.

Authorizes the Secretary to implement a grant program to provide grants to state wildlife agencies and Indian tribes to coordinate the response to, and address, such declared emergencies.

(Sec. 5) Establishes in the Treasury a Wildlife Disease Emergency Fund, to be administered by the Secretary.

Requires the Fund to consist of such amounts as are appropriated to the Fund and that are received as donations, gifts, or contributions.

Prohibits amounts in the Fund from being made available for any purpose other than to respond to a declared emergency.

Requires the Secretary to report annually to Congress on the operation of the Fund.

Requires a separate statement concerning the Fund in the President's annual budget submission to Congress.

Authorizes appropriations.

(Sec. 6) Directs the Secretary to establish a Wildlife Disease Committee to assist the Secretary in increasing the level of preparedness needed to address emerging wildlife diseases.

Requires the Committee to: (1) advise the Secretary on risk assessment, preparation, monitoring, research, and response to wildlife diseases that may significantly impact the health and sustainability of wildlife populations; and (2) as appropriate, draft documents related to such activities.

(Sec. 7) Authorizes the Secretary to convene rapid response teams to address any wildlife disease emergency.

(Sec. 8) Prohibits anything in this Act from: (1) limiting the Secretary's authority to respond to wildlife disease events that are not declared emergencies; (2) affecting the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the states to manage, control, or regulate fish and resident wildlife under any state law; (3) granting authority to any public agency to acquire private property or conservation easements or otherwise infringe any use of private property; or (4) limiting, repealing, superseding, or modifying any provision of law.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 19, 2012:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Reported by Senator Boxer with amendments. With written report No. 112-214.
- **Sep 19, 2012:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 515.
- **Jul 25, 2012:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
- **Apr 24, 2012:** Committee on Environment and Public Works Senate Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 112-968.
- **Feb 15, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 15, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.