

## HR 159

To expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals and their ecosystems, and to develop educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine.

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Animals

**Introduced:** Jan 3, 2017

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. (Feb 10, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/159>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jan 3, 2017
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Feb 1, 2017
Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]	D · OR		Feb 14, 2017
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Feb 14, 2017
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Mar 22, 2017
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Mar 22, 2017
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Mar 7, 2018
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Apr 10, 2018
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Apr 10, 2018
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Apr 10, 2018
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Apr 18, 2018
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]	D · NH		May 9, 2018
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Aug 10, 2018
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Sep 20, 2018
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Oct 12, 2018
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Oct 12, 2018

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 13, 2017
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 10, 2017
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 10, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Animals

### Related Bills

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*No related bills are listed.*

### Summary (as of Jan 3, 2017)

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#### Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act or the Wildlife VET Act

This bill authorizes the Department of the Interior to award grants to wildlife or veterinary institutions to create additional clinical and research positions for wildlife and zoological veterinarians. Preference must be given to institutions that will create positions in areas of need, including wildlife disease research and training, disease surveillance, ecology and wildlife population management, and conservation and management of the health of endangered, threatened, and sensitive species.

Interior must establish: (1) the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Workforce Loan Repayment Program to pay educational loans of eligible individuals for a doctoral degree in veterinary medicine or a graduate degree in veterinary medicine, and (2) the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Workforce Scholarship Program to award students enrolled in an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine scholarships. Those loans may be repaid and the awards may be given only if the recipient of the loan or the award agrees to serve for at least four consecutive years at a wildlife or veterinary institution as a wildlife or zoological veterinarian.

Interior must also: (1) establish a pilot program to award grants to accredited schools and colleges of veterinary medicine to develop or improve new or existing curricula that specialize in wildlife or zoological veterinary medicine, and (2) award grants to eligible wildlife or veterinary institutions to establish or expand training programs that will enhance the ability of a trainee to practice as a wildlife or zoological veterinarian.

#### Actions Timeline

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- **Feb 10, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.
- **Feb 10, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Jan 13, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.
- **Jan 3, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 3, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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.