

HR 4780

Refuge System Protection Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jul 28, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. (Aug 11, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4780>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]

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

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Jul 28, 2021
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Jul 28, 2021
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		May 10, 2022
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		May 10, 2022
Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14]	D · NY		May 10, 2022
Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]	D · CA		May 10, 2022
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Jun 9, 2022
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Jun 9, 2022
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Jun 9, 2022
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jun 9, 2022
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jun 9, 2022
Rep. Stansbury, Melanie Ann [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Jun 14, 2022
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Jun 14, 2022
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Jul 20, 2022
Rep. Ross, Deborah K. [D-NC-2]	D · NC		Jul 20, 2022
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Aug 12, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Appropriations Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 28, 2021
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 11, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jul 28, 2021)

Refuge System Protection Act

This bill authorizes the Department of Justice (DOJ), at the request of the Department of the Interior, to bring in a district court a civil action against any individual or entity that destroys, causes the loss of, causes Interior to make risk mitigation efforts with respect to, or injures any resource that is within the boundaries any land or water that is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The bill also authorizes DOJ, at the request of Interior, to bring in a district court an in rem action against any instrumentality (e.g., a vessel, vehicle, or aircraft) that destroys, causes the loss of, causes Interior to make risk mitigation efforts with respect to, or injures any such system resource.

Among others, it shall be an affirmative defense in either type of action that the destruction of, loss of, risk mitigation regarding, or injury to a system resource was caused by an otherwise legal act or omission that occurred outside the boundaries of the resource.

In either type of action, the court may award response costs and damages.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 11, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.
- **Jul 28, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 28, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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.