

MAJOR PROVISIONS / BILL OVERVIEW

Section 3 amends the definition of “fiscal year” in the legislation, to be the fiscal year or license year of the State, to be used in determining the number of paid license-holders in a State. This section also defines “hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment” as any activity or project to recruit or retain hunters and recreational shooters, including:

- outreach and communications as a means to improve communications with hunters and shooters with respect to hunting and shooting opportunities; to reduce barriers to participation; to advance adoption of sound hunting and shooting practices; to promote conservation and responsible use of wildlife resources; to further safety in hunting and recreational shooting;
- providing education, mentoring or field demonstrations;
- enhancing access for hunting and recreational shooting, including through range construction; and
- providing education to the public about the role of hunting and recreational shooting in wildlife; conservation

Section 4 modernizes text to more clearly reflect the apportionment of taxes established by the Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act at no more than 3 percent and no less than 1 percent of revenues. This section also clarifies the authorized use of funds to include the purpose of hunter and recreational shooter recruitment.

Section 5 removes existing prohibition on “public relations,” allowing State spending for management of wildlife areas as well as promotion of hunting and recreational shooting.

Section 6 amends section 10(a) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to include the enhancement of hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment as funding opportunities for grants made available by the Secretary of the Interior.

Section 7 expands the Multistate Conservation Grant program by providing an additional \$5 million per year (from archery-related excise tax collections) to be used for making hunter and recreational shooter recruitment project grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sport recruitment program and related communication and outreach activities. Finally, this section calls for a study to be conducted, not later than 10 years after the date of enactment, by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to review and evaluate the effects of the funds used for hunter and recreational shooter recruitment on funds available for wildlife conservation. The report shall be submitted to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Natural Resources Committee.