



H.R. 4933 – Captive Wildlife Safety Technical Amendments Act of 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4933 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) on January 3, 2008. The House Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported by unanimous consent on March 13, 2008.

H.R. 4933 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 31, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 4933 makes technical corrections to the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3372), and the Captive Wildlife Safety Act (P.L. 108-191). The technical corrections make clarifications that ensure enforcement capabilities for violations added by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act.

BACKGROUND

The Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. 701) was enacted in 1900 in an effort to protect species of wildlife by banning the interstate transport of wildlife killed in violation of a federal, state, or tribal law. The original Lacey Act has been amended several times since its enactment.

The Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 made it unlawful for any person to attempt, assist, or actively participate in the import, export, transport, purchase or sale of fish, wildlife or plants taken or possessed in violation of federal, state, or tribal law. Additionally, the Lacey Act Amendments regulated the packaging and marking of all containers containing fish or wildlife. These activities were punishable by civil and criminal penalties, and the cancellation of the violators hunting and fishing licenses. The Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 also replaced the Black Bass Act (16 U.S.C. 851-856), which originally prohibited certain interstate shipments of bass and was later expanded to include all types of fish.

In 2003, Congress passed the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, which was introduced by Congressman Howard McKeon (R-CA), on November 19, 2003, by a vote of 419-0. The bill amended the Lacey Act Amendments to include big game cats, such as lions and tigers. The President signed the Captive Wildlife Safety Act into law on December 19, 2003.

COST

H.R. 4933 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

STAFF CONTACT

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