



H.R. 465 - Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 465 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 Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ) on January 12, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 465 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 23, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 465 reauthorizes the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 through the year 2012.

This authorizes \$5 million for each of the 5 years authorized in the Act for the protection of Asian elephants.

Background

In the early 1990's there were less than 40,000 wild Asian elephants living throughout the world. These animals were located in 13 south and southeastern Asian countries. There were only 14 populations of 1,000 or more individual elephants and their habitat was being destroyed.

In response to this wildlife crisis, Congressman Jim Saxton introduced the Asian Elephant Conservation Act. Since 1997, the Secretary of the Interior has reviewed over 300 proposals to assist Asian elephants and 183 grants have been awarded to various entities. These projects have received \$9 million in federal funds and \$11.3 million in private matching money.

This conservation fund has had a profound impact on protecting Asian elephants and there is no question that these projects have stopped this species slide towards extinction.

Cost

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the USFWS would spend \$23 million over the

2008-2012 period carry out the program. (An additional \$2 million would be spent after 2012.) The legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Staff Contact

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.