

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5360

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of, and make necessary recommendations to Congress regarding, Federal and State laws that regulate private ownership of exotic wild animals.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 3, 2000

Mr. POMBO (for himself and Mr. LANTOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on 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

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of, and make necessary recommendations to Congress regarding, Federal and State laws that regulate private ownership of exotic wild animals.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. REPORT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-  
6 culture, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior,

1 the Secretary of Commerce, and private organizations that  
2 are experts in the handling, housing, breeding, behavior,  
3 training, and medical care of exotic wild animals, shall  
4 submit a report to the chairman and ranking member of  
5 each of the following:

6 (1) The Committee on Agriculture of the House  
7 of Representatives.

8 (2) The Committee on Commerce of the House  
9 of Representatives.

10 (3) The Committee on Resources of the House  
11 of Representatives.

12 (4) The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
13 and Forestry of the Senate.

14 (5) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
15 Transportation of the Senate.

16 (6) The Committee on Environment and Public  
17 Works of the Senate.

18 (b) CONTENTS.—The report shall include the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 (1) An examination of Federal and State laws  
21 and regulations pertaining to the private ownership  
22 of exotic wild animals, including an evaluation of the  
23 effectiveness of such laws and regulations.

1           (2) A description of any Federal funding  
2           insufficiencies that hamper Federal agencies in car-  
3           rying out such Federal laws and regulations.

4           (3) Legislative recommendations for improving  
5           enforcement of such Federal laws and regulations.

6           (4) An analysis of the cooperative efforts be-  
7           tween Federal and State governments regarding the  
8           enforcement of such Federal and State laws and reg-  
9           ulations and recommendations for improving such  
10          cooperation.

11          (5) An analysis of public health, safety, and  
12          welfare issues related to the private ownership of ex-  
13          otic wild animals and recommendations to address  
14          any such issues that are not fully addressed by laws  
15          in force at the time of the study.

16          (6) An analysis of issues related to unregulated  
17          breeding of exotic wild animals in private ownership  
18          and recommendations to address any such issues  
19          that are not fully addressed by laws in force at the  
20          time of the study.

21          (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the  
22          following definitions apply:

23                 (1) EXOTIC WILD ANIMAL.—The term “exotic  
24                 wild animal” means any species of animal or hybrid  
25                 cross of any species of animal that is not native to

1 the United States, was introduced to the United  
2 States from outside its borders, or not normally a  
3 domesticated species kept in captivity by individuals  
4 in the United States.

5 (2) PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.—The term “private  
6 ownership” shall not include ownership or physical  
7 custody of an exotic wild animal by a person or facil-  
8 ity licensed by the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-  
9 tion Service of the United States Department of Ag-  
10 riculture or a State equivalent to own or have phys-  
11 ical custody of an exotic wild animal for the purpose  
12 of research, testing, training, exhibition, breeding,  
13 teaching, or rescuing an exotic wild animal.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
15 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this  
16 section.

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