

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3806

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to study and report on strategies to combat the New World screwworm and enhance the United States' preparedness and response capabilities against potential outbreaks.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2025

Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROY, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. GILL of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to study and report on strategies to combat the New World screwworm and enhance the United States' preparedness and response capabilities against potential outbreaks.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “New World Screwworm  
5 Preparedness Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia*  
2           hominivorax) (in this section referred to as “NWS”)  
3           is a parasitic fly whose larvae infest and feed on the  
4           living tissue of warm-blooded animals, including live-  
5           stock, wildlife, and, in rare cases, humans.

6           (2) NWS infestations can lead to severe dam-  
7           age, secondary infections, and often death in af-  
8           fected animals, posing a significant threat to agricul-  
9           tural economies, wildlife populations, and public  
10          health.

11          (3) The United States successfully eradicated  
12          NWS in the 1960s through significant efforts, pri-  
13          marily utilizing the sterile insect technique, which  
14          involves releasing sterile male flies to disrupt repro-  
15          duction in wild populations.

16          (4) Recent outbreaks and confirmed detections  
17          of NWS in neighboring countries, particularly Mex-  
18          ico, indicate an increasing risk of reintroduction and  
19          establishment of NWS within the United States.

20          (5) Proactive measures, including enhanced sur-  
21          veillance, rapid response capabilities, and continued  
22          research into innovative control methods, are critical  
23          to preventing a widespread NWS outbreak and miti-  
24          gating its potential economic and ecological impact.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT ON NEW WORLD SCREWWORM**  
2 **PREPAREDNESS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-  
5 culture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal  
6 and Plant Health Inspection Service (in this section re-  
7 ferred to as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a comprehen-  
8 sive study on the current State of United States prepared-  
9 ness and response capabilities to combat the New World  
10 screwworm (in this section referred to as “NWS”).

11 (b) COMPONENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study under  
12 this section shall include the following:

13 (1) CURRENT THREAT ASSESSMENT.—An anal-  
14 ysis of the current threat posed by NWS to the  
15 United States, including—

16 (A) the migratory patterns and confirmed  
17 detections of NWS in countries bordering the  
18 United States;

19 (B) the potential pathways for NWS intro-  
20 duction into the United States;

21 (C) the economic impact of a potential  
22 NWS outbreak on the United States livestock  
23 industry, including cattle, swine, and other sus-  
24 ceptible animals; and

25 (D) the ecological impact of a potential  
26 NWS outbreak on domestic wildlife populations.

1           (2) STERILE INSECT TECHNIQUE CAPABILI-  
2           TIES.—A review of the United States capacity to  
3           produce and deploy sterile NWS flies, including—

4                   (A) the current status and capacity of ex-  
5                   isting NWS sterile fly production facilities;

6                   (B) the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of  
7                   establishing new or expanding existing modular  
8                   NWS sterile fly rearing facilities within the  
9                   United States, including potential locations  
10                  based on risk assessment; and

11                  (C) the logistical requirements for effective  
12                  dispersal of sterile flies in areas at risk of infes-  
13                  tation.

14           (3) SURVEILLANCE AND DETECTION SYS-  
15           TEMS.—An evaluation of current NWS surveillance  
16           and detection systems, including—

17                   (A) the effectiveness of border inspection  
18                   protocols for live animals;

19                   (B) the adequacy of diagnostic capabilities  
20                   and laboratory infrastructure; and

21                   (C) the integration of public and private  
22                   sector reporting mechanisms for suspected  
23                   NWS cases.

1           (4) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS.—An exam-  
2           ination of existing emergency response plans for  
3           NWS outbreaks, including—

4                   (A) the coordination mechanisms between  
5                   Federal, State, and local agencies;

6                   (B) the availability of resources for rapid  
7                   containment and eradication efforts; and

8                   (C) protocols for animal movement restric-  
9                   tions and public outreach during an outbreak.

10          (5) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—  
11          Identification of critical research and development  
12          needs to enhance NWS prevention, control, and  
13          eradication, including—

14                   (A) new diagnostic tools;

15                   (B) improved sterile insect techniques;

16                   (C) alternative control methods; and

17                   (D) genetic research into NWS  
18          vulnerabilities.

19          (6) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—An as-  
20          sessment of the effectiveness of current international  
21          co-operation efforts with affected countries and rec-  
22          ommendations for strengthening such partnerships  
23          to establish and maintain biological barriers.

1           (c) **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.**—In conducting  
2 the study under this section, the Secretary shall consult  
3 with relevant stakeholders, including—

4           (1) livestock producers and industry associa-  
5 tions;

6           (2) wildlife management agencies;

7           (3) veterinary professionals;

8           (4) scientific experts in entomology, epidemi-  
9 ology, and animal health; and

10           (5) State and local agricultural and public  
11 health officials.

12           (d) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 6  
13 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
14 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of  
15 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-  
16 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and make  
17 publicly available, a report—

18           (1) detailing the findings of the study under  
19 this section; and

20           (2) providing recommendations for legislative  
21 and administrative actions to improve the United  
22 States' ability to combat NWS.

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