

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1480

To authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (for himself, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center,
and for other purposes.

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 “Beagle Brigade Act
5 of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National
8 Detector Dog Training Center (referred to in this Act as
9 the “Center”).

1 (b) DUTIES.—The Center shall have the following du-
2 ties:

3 (1) Training dogs for the purpose of safe-
4 guarding domestic agricultural and natural resources
5 from foreign and invasive pests and diseases.

6 (2) Training human handlers to successfully se-
7 lect and train dogs for the purpose described in
8 paragraph (1).

9 (3) Collaborating with relevant Federal agen-
10 cies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection,
11 to safeguard domestic agricultural and natural re-
12 sources.

13 (4) Collaborating with external stakeholders, in-
14 cluding State departments of agriculture, local and
15 county agricultural officials, private sector entities,
16 and other relevant non-Federal partners.

17 (5) Ensuring the health and welfare of all dogs
18 under the care of the Center, including by ensuring
19 access to necessary veterinary care, adequate shelter,
20 and proper nutrition.

21 (6) Providing opportunities for private adoption
22 of retirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do not
23 complete training.

24 (7) Any other duties necessary to safeguard do-
25 mestic agricultural and natural resources from for-

1 eign and invasive pests and diseases, as determined
2 by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
3 Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health In-
4 spection Service.

5 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
6 tion to any other amounts made available for the operation
7 of the Center, there are authorized to be appropriated to
8 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Adminis-
9 trator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,
10 such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2024, and each
11 fiscal year thereafter, for the operation of the Center.

12 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

13 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through
15 the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-
16 tion Service, shall submit to Congress a report that con-
17 tains—

18 (1) a description of current and emerging
19 threats to domestic agricultural and natural re-
20 sources from foreign pests and diseases within the
21 purview of the operations of the Center;

22 (2) an examination of the role that the Center
23 plays in the protection against foreign pests and dis-
24 eases;

1 (3) a description of improvements needed in
2 Federal programs to minimize threats from foreign
3 pests and diseases within the purview of the oper-
4 ations of the Center, including strengthened coordi-
5 nation among the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-
6 tion Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection,
7 and other relevant Federal agencies;

8 (4) recommendations to strengthen the capabili-
9 ties of the Center in protecting against foreign pests
10 and diseases; and

11 (5) recommendations to improve—

12 (A) the dog procurement procedures of the
13 Center; and

14 (B) private adoption opportunities for re-
15 tirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do not
16 complete training.

○