

SB-58

Providing for increased public health consideration in relation to halting the spread of zoonotic diseases through sustainability and education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Jing of Oregon introduced the following bill;

A BILL

Providing for increased public health consideration in relation to halting the spread of zoonotic diseases through sustainability and education.

Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reducing Disease Transmission Act".

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

Zoonotic disease refers to any disease originating from an animal, yet has been transmitted to a human, usually through contact known as a spillover event. Examples include the various Coronaviruses, Ebola, and Anthrax.

SECTION 3: PURPOSE

Zoonotic diseases currently pose a serious threat to public health and citizen quality of life, as

demonstrated through the COVID-19 pandemic. Preventing the formation of future, more lethal diseases and minimizing transmission of current diseases requires action.

SECTION 4: PUBLIC HEALTH

Acknowledging that contact between wildlife and humans is largely responsible for zoonotic disease transmission, the bill enacts the following:

(1) A task force composed of FDA, CDC and NIH members whose purpose is to evaluate the status of zoonotic diseases in the United States and around the world to immediately categorize potential threats.

(2) Increased funding into proven scientific research and systems in relation to public health disciplines, such as understanding current zoonotic viruses, their origins, and preventative measures for humans and wildlife. Funding and selection of labs will be delegated to the task force to determine and request, with the total expenditure not exceeding \$150 Million USD from the NIH.

(3) Formal congregation, collaboration, and discussion at international conferences led by the United States to determine international prevention strategies, such as identifying innovative solutions or adopting more stringent regulation for deforestation and transfer of wildlife either illegally or legally.

SECTION 5: EDUCATION

The bill enacts the following to educate the public about disease transmission:

(1) A publicly accessible and free crash course on proper disease prevention will be made available on the CDC website, detailing among other information--

(A) General advisories about procedures and precautions relating to handling wildlife.

(B) Awareness of rabies, Lyme disease, and other zoonotic infections and their proper courses of action.

(C) General information regarding proper handwashing, notices of tropical diseases, etc.

(2) Public high schools and middle schools are highly encouraged to direct students to the course during sections on personal health and biology.

SECTION 6: TERMINATION

The proposals in the bill will take effect on January 1st, 2022, and will be effective until January 1st, 2025, at which point renewal or termination may occur.