

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6068

To establish a grant program to assist States in inspecting hotel rooms
for bed bugs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. JEFFERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a grant program to assist States in inspecting
hotel rooms for bed bugs.

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 “Don’t Let the Bed
5 Bugs Bite Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) on February 12, 2008, a thorough inspec-
9 tion of a hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire, found
10 that 16 of 117 rooms were infested with bedbugs;

1 (2) cimex lectularius, commonly known as bed
2 bugs, travel through the ventilation systems in
3 multi-unit establishments causing exponential infes-
4 tations;

5 (3) female bedbugs can lay up to 5 eggs in a
6 day and 500 during a lifetime;

7 (4) bedbug populations in the United States
8 have increased by 500 percent in the past few years;

9 (5) in 2004, New York City had 377 bedbug
10 violations and from July to November of 2005, a 5-
11 month span, there were 449 violations reported in
12 the city, an alarming increase in infestations over a
13 short period of time;

14 (6) in a study of 700 hotel rooms between 2002
15 and 2006, 25 percent of hotels were found to be in
16 need of bedbug treatment; and

17 (7) bed bugs possess all of the necessary pre-
18 requisites for being capable of passing diseases from
19 one host to another.

20 **SEC. 3. BED BUG INSPECTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 (a) ADMINISTRATION; AMOUNT.—The Secretary of
22 Commerce, in cooperation with the Travel and Tourism
23 Advisory Board, may provide grants to an eligible State
24 to assist such State in carrying out the inspections de-
25 scribed in subsection (c). The grants shall be in amounts

1 determined by the Secretary, taking into consideration the
2 relative needs of the State.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible for a grant
4 under this Act if the State has established a program
5 whereby not fewer than 20 percent of rooms in lodging
6 facilities in such State are inspected annually for cimex
7 lectularius, commonly know as the bed bug. The Federal
8 share of funding for such a program shall not exceed 80
9 percent.

10 (c) USE OF GRANTS.—A State may use a grant re-
11 ceived under this Act to—

12 (1) conduct inspections of lodging facilities for
13 cimex lectularius, including transportation, lodging,
14 and meal expenses for inspectors;

15 (2) train inspection personnel; and

16 (3) educate the proprietors and staff of lodging
17 establishments about methods to prevent and eradi-
18 cate cimex lectularius.

19 (d) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this
20 Act, an eligible State shall submit an application to the
21 Secretary of Commerce in such form and containing such
22 information as the Secretary shall determine.

23 (e) DEFINITION OF LODGING FACILITY.—For pur-
24 poses of this Act and the requirement under subsection
25 (b) for State programs receiving funding under this Act,

1 the term “lodging facility” means any individual hotel,
2 motel, or inn that makes available for commercial lodging
3 more than 10 individual rooms.

4 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of fis-
6 cal years 2009 through 2012 to the Secretary of Com-
7 merce for the grants authorized under this Act.

8 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

9 The Secretary of Commerce shall transmit a report
10 to Congress not later than 3 years after the issuance of
11 the first grant authorized under this Act, which shall con-
12 tain an assessment of the effectiveness of the grant pro-
13 gram.

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