

# Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act

## FAST FACTS

In recent years, opportunities for Americans to safely engage in recreational and competitive shooting have declined on both public and private lands. **The Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act** would help address this loss of access and opportunity by allowing states to allocate a greater proportion of their federal Pittman-Robertson wildlife funds to the development and maintenance of shooting ranges.

**The Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act** would amend the Pittman-Robertson Act by adjusting current funding limitations so that states have more funds available for the creation and maintenance of shooting ranges. Specifically, the bill would:

- Authorize states to charge up to 90 percent, instead of the current 75 percent, of the costs of acquiring land for expanding or constructing a public target range on federal or non-federal land to its allotted Pittman-Robertson funds. In other words, the bill

- **The Pittman-Robertson excise tax on firearms and ammunition creates a direct link between those that hunt and participate in the shooting sports and the resources needed to expand and enhance opportunities to hunt and shoot.**
- **This measure would give states more flexibility to allow for Pittman-Robertson funds to be used for the development and maintenance of public shooting ranges.**
- **The development of new ranges will help encourage participation in hunting and the shooting sports, ensuring wildlife conservation funding through the Pittman-Robertson Act will continue for generations to come.**

would allow states to move forward on a project with only a 10 percent match as opposed to the current 25 percent requirement.

- Allow Pittman-Robertson funds allotted to a state to remain available and accrue for 5 fiscal years for use in acquiring land for expanding or constructing a public target range on federal or non-federal land.
- Limit the exposure of federal land management agencies to frivolous lawsuits that may result from the use of federal land for

target practice or marksmanship training.

- Encourage federal land management agencies to cooperate with state and local authorities to maintain target ranges on federal land.

The Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act is badly needed to respond to the significant decline in recent years of opportunities for recreational and competitive shooting on public lands, thereby limiting the ability of shooters to participate in their sports. These declines also have reduced opportunities for hunters to sight in their rifles and shotguns before the hunting season, and for firearms safety education and hunter education courses to be

### SUPPORT

Rep. Duncan Hunter (R- CA - 50) has introduced the bill in the House, H.R. 788. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.V.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), John Boozman (R-La.) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) have introduced the bill in the Senate, S. 593.

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taught to new shooters and hunters. Almost \$11 billion has been raised by shooting sports enthusiasts, hunters and manufacturers since 1937, through the Pittman-Robertson Act. Target shooters are largely responsible for the funds derived through excise taxes from the sale of firearms and ammunition products. That money is directly responsible for habitat conservation, recreational

shooting and wildlife management, making gun owners, hunters and manufacturers largest financial supporters of wildlife conservation throughout the United States. Despite the unqualified success of this historic “user pays” system, Pittman-Robertson receipts have traditionally been allocated in a manner that disproportionately underfunds the creation of recreational shooting opportunities.

Passage of the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act of 2017 would fix this imbalance. By encouraging states to develop new shooting ranges that will facilitate participation in the shooting sports, this legislation would ensure that vital wildlife conservation funding through the Pittman-Robertson Act continues for generations to come.



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