



Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act

Introduced by Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and
Michael Bennet (D-Colo.)

Background

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 deficiency by allowing states to allocate a greater proportion of their federal Pittman-Robertson wildlife funds to the development and maintenance of public shooting ranges.

Pittman-Robertson funds are raised through an 11 percent excise tax on firearms and ammunition and are set aside from the general treasury for use in firearms safety training programs and wildlife conservation. Since 1937, almost \$11 billion has been raised for the fund, making target shooters and hunters among the largest financial supporters of wildlife conservation in the United States through this successful “user pays” system.

States have recently deployed less of these funds to establishing public shooting ranges. With state budgets under serious fiscal constraints, the costs associated with siting a range, as well as the strict two-year timeline to deploy Pittman-Robertson funds for such a project before they are reclaimed by the federal government, have led to a steep decline in the development of these sorts of projects.

The decline of access to public shooting ranges reduces the public’s ability to undergo firearms safety training and for hunters to “sight in” their firearms before the hunting season. Both of these effects have negative implications for public safety.

Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act

- Authorizes the state to charge up to 90 percent, instead of the current 75 percent, of the costs associated with acquiring land for expanding or constructing a public target range on federal or non-federal land to its allotted Pittman-Robertson funds, reducing the costs to the state from 25 percent to 10 percent of the total project.
 - Since the funding is sourced from the Pittman-Robertson fund, there is no score associated with this change to the formula nor does it draw funds from other federal or state funding priorities.
- Allows Pittman-Robertson funds allotted to a state to remain available and accrue for five fiscal years for use in acquiring land for expanding or constructing a public target range on federal or non-federal land, as opposed to the current limit of two years.
- Encourages federal land management agencies to cooperate with state and local authorities to maintain target ranges on federal land.