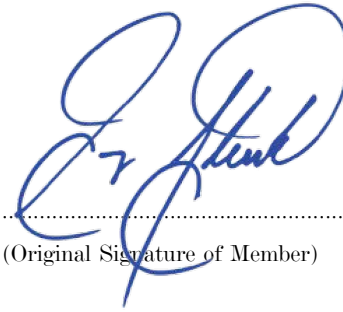




(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study regarding certain reptiles, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STEUBE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study regarding certain reptiles, 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 “Gathering Alligator
5 Treatment, Oversight, and Response Act of 2026” or the
6 “GATOR Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY REGARDING CERTAIN REPTILES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
3 United States, in consultation with the Secretary and the
4 heads of wildlife agencies of covered States the Comp-
5 troller General and Secretary determine relevant, shall
6 carry out a study regarding the effect of the treatment
7 by the Secretary pursuant to section 4(e)(A) of the En-
8 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(e)(A)) of
9 covered reptiles as threatened species by reason of simi-
10 larity of appearance to a species listed as an endangered
11 species or a threatened species under section 4 of that Act
12 (16 U.S.C. 1533) on the size of the population of covered
13 reptiles, including whether and, if so, how, such treatment
14 has—

15 (1) affected the management programs of cov-
16 ered reptiles of covered States;

17 (2) resulted in—

18 (A) more than a complete recovery of the
19 American alligator; and

20 (B) the common caiman or brown caiman
21 becoming an invasive species in Florida; and

22 (3) made it more difficult for nuisance Amer-
23 ican alligators or invasive common caimans or brown
24 caimans to be removed from waterways in or around
25 residential or commercial areas than before such
26 treatment was implemented.

1 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) COVERED REPTILE.—The term “covered
3 reptile” means—

4 (A) the American alligator (*Alligator*
5 *mississippiensis*);

6 (B) the common caiman (*Caiman*
7 *crocodilus crocodilus*); and

8 (C) the brown caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*
9 *odilus fuscus*; *Caiman crocodilus chiapasius*).

10 (2) COVERED STATE.—The term “covered
11 State” means a State that has at least 1 population
12 of a covered reptile located within the State.

13 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
15 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
16 ice.