

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1865

To amend the prices set for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2013

Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend the prices set for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users.

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 “Migratory Bird Habi-  
5 tat Investment and Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Con-  
9 servation Stamps (commonly known as “duck

1 stamps”) were created in 1934 as Federal licenses  
2 required for hunting migratory waterfowl;

3 (2)(A) duck stamps are a vital tool for wetland  
4 conservation;

5 (B) 98 percent of the receipts from duck stamp  
6 sales are used to acquire important migratory bird  
7 breeding, migration, and wintering habitat, which  
8 are added to the National Wildlife Refuge System;  
9 and

10 (C) those benefits extend to all wildlife, not just  
11 ducks;

12 (3) since its inception, the Federal duck stamp  
13 program has—

14 (A) generated more than \$750,000,000;

15 (B) preserved more than 5,000,000 acres  
16 of wetland and wildlife habitat; and

17 (C) is considered among the most success-  
18 ful conservation programs ever initiated;

19 (4)(A) since 1934, when duck stamps cost \$1,  
20 the price has been increased 7 times to the price in  
21 effect on the date of enactment of this Act of \$15,  
22 which took effect in 1991; and

23 (B) the price of the duck stamp has not in-  
24 creased since 1991, the longest single period without  
25 an increase in program history; and

1           (5) with the price unchanged during the 20-  
2           year period preceding the date of enactment of this  
3           Act, duck stamps have lost 40 percent of their value  
4           based on the consumer price index, while the United  
5           States Fish and Wildlife Service reports the price of  
6           land in targeted wetland areas has tripled from an  
7           average of \$306 to \$1,091 per acre.

8 **SEC. 3. COST OF STAMPS.**

9           Section 2 of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Con-  
10          servation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718b) is amended by  
11          striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

12          “(b) COST OF STAMPS.—

13                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the 5-calendar-year pe-  
14                 riod beginning with calendar year 2014, and for  
15                 each 5-calendar-year period thereafter, the Sec-  
16                 retary, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Con-  
17                 servation Commission, shall establish the amount to  
18                 be collected under paragraph (2) for each stamp sold  
19                 under this section, provided that the amount shall  
20                 not exceed \$25 for the initial 5-calendar-year period  
21                 and not exceed \$30 for the subsequent 5-calendar-  
22                 year period.

23                 “(2) COLLECTION OF AMOUNTS.—The United  
24                 States Postal Service, the Department of the Inte-  
25                 rior, or any other agent approved by the Department

1 of the Interior, shall collect the amount established  
2 under paragraph (1) for each stamp sold under this  
3 section for a hunting year if the Secretary deter-  
4 mines, at any time before February 1 of the cal-  
5 endar year during which the hunting year begins,  
6 that all amounts described in paragraph (3) have  
7 been obligated for expenditure.

8 “(3) AMOUNTS.—The amounts described in this  
9 paragraph are amounts in the Migratory Bird Con-  
10 servation Fund available for obligation and attrib-  
11 utable to—

12 “(A) amounts appropriated pursuant to  
13 this Act for the fiscal year ending in the imme-  
14 diately preceding calendar year; and

15 “(B) the sale of stamps under this section  
16 during that fiscal year.”.

17 **SEC. 4. WAIVERS.**

18 Section 1(a) of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Con-  
19 servation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a(a)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and sub-  
21 section (d)” after “paragraph (2)”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(d) WAIVERS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
25 tion with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commis-

1 sion, may waive requirements under this section for  
2 such individuals as the Secretary, in consultation  
3 with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission,  
4 determines to be appropriate.

5 “(2) LIMITATION.—In making the determina-  
6 tion described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall  
7 grant only those waivers the Secretary determines  
8 will have a minimal adverse effect on funds to be de-  
9 posited in the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund es-  
10 tablished under section 4(a)(3).”.

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