

## Union Calendar No. 757

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6013

[Report No. 115-969]

To amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to establish January 31 of each year as the Federal closing date for duck hunting season and to establish special duck hunting days for youths, veterans, and active military personnel, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. BERGMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

Additional sponsor: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 6, 2018]

# **A BILL**

To amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to establish January 31 of each year as the Federal closing date for duck hunting season and to establish special duck hunting days for youths, veterans, and active military personnel, 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 “Migratory Bird Frame-*  
5 *work and Hunting Opportunities for Veterans Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL CLOSING DATE FOR HUNTING OF DUCKS,**  
7 **MERGANSERS, AND COOTS.**

8       *Section 3 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C.*  
9 *704) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

10       “(c) *FEDERAL FRAMEWORK CLOSING DATE FOR*  
11 *HUNTING OF DUCKS, MERGANSERS, AND COOTS.—*

12               “(1) *IN GENERAL.—In promulgating regulations*  
13 *under subsection (a) relating to the Federal frame-*  
14 *work for outside dates within which the States may*  
15 *select seasons for migratory bird hunting, except as*  
16 *provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall, with*  
17 *respect to the hunting season for ducks, mergansers,*  
18 *and coots—*

19                       “(A) *adopt the recommendation of each re-*  
20 *spective flyway council (as defined in section*  
21 *20.152 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations)*  
22 *for the Federal framework, but the framework*  
23 *closing date shall be January 31 of each year;*  
24 *and*

1           “(B) allow the States to establish the closing  
2           date for the hunting season in accordance with  
3           the Federal framework.

4           “(2) SPECIAL DUCK HUNTING DAYS FOR YOUTHS,  
5           VETERANS, AND ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL.—

6           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the  
7           closing date under paragraph (1) and subject to  
8           subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary shall  
9           allow States to select 2 days for youths and 2  
10          days for veterans (as defined in section 101 of  
11          title 38, United States Code), and members of the  
12          Armed Forces on active duty, including members  
13          of the National Guard and Reserves on active  
14          duty (other than for training), to hunt ducks,  
15          mergansers, and coots. Such days shall be treated  
16          as an addition to the regular hunting season  
17          lengths selected by the States.

18          “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting days  
19          under subparagraph (A), a State shall ensure  
20          that—

21                  “(i) the days selected—

22                          “(I) do not fall within the regular  
23                          hunting season for ducks, mergansers,  
24                          and coots;

1                   “(II) with regard to youth days,  
2                   are on a weekend, holiday or other day  
3                   in which schools are not in session;  
4                   and

5                   “(III) are not more than 14 days  
6                   before or after the hunting season for  
7                   duck, mergansers, and coots; and

8                   “(ii) the total number of days in a  
9                   hunting season for ducks, mergansers and  
10                  coots, including any days selected under  
11                  subparagraph (A), is not more than 107  
12                  days.

13                  “(C) *LIMITATION.*—A State may combine  
14                  the 2 days allowed for youths with the 2 days al-  
15                  lowed for veterans and members of the Armed  
16                  Forces on active duty under subparagraph (A),  
17                  but in no circumstance may a State have more  
18                  than a total of 4 additional days added to its  
19                  regular hunting season for any purpose.

20                  “(3) *REGULATIONS.*—The Secretary shall pro-  
21                  mulgate regulations in accordance with this sub-  
22                  section for the Federal framework for migratory bird  
23                  hunting for the 2019–2020 hunting season and each  
24                  hunting season thereafter.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the  
Migratory Bird Treaty Act to establish January 31 of

each year as the Federal framework closing date for the duck hunting season and to establish special duck hunting days for youths, veterans, and active military personnel, and for other purposes.”.



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