

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 742

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Utah introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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.

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”.

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

3 Section 3 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16
4 U.S.C. 704) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(c) FEDERAL FRAMEWORK CLOSING DATE FOR
7 HUNTING OF DUCKS, MERGANSERS, AND COOTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In promulgating regula-
9 tions under subsection (a) relating to the Federal
10 framework for outside dates within which the States
11 may select seasons for migratory bird hunting, ex-
12 cept as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary
13 shall, with respect to the hunting season for ducks,
14 mergansers, and coots—

15 “(A) adopt the recommendation of each re-
16 spective flyway council (as defined in section
17 20.152 of title 50, Code of Federal Regula-
18 tions) for the Federal framework if considered
19 by the Secretary to be consistent with science-
20 based and sustainable adaptive harvest manage-
21 ment, but the framework closing date shall be
22 January 31 of each year; and

23 “(B) allow the States to establish the clos-
24 ing date for the hunting season in accordance
25 with the Federal framework.

1 “(2) SPECIAL DUCK HUNTING DAYS FOR
2 YOUTHS, VETERANS, AND ACTIVE MILITARY PER-
3 SONNEL.—

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

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

19 “(i) the days selected—

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

23 “(II) with regard to youth days,
24 are on a weekend, holiday or other

1 day in which schools are not in ses-
2 sion; and

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

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

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

18 “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pro-
19 mulgate regulations in accordance with this sub-
20 section for the Federal framework for migratory bird
21 hunting for the 2020–2021 hunting season and each
22 hunting season thereafter.”.

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