

Union Calendar No. 241

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2293

[Report No. 119–285]

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2025

Mr. EZELL (for himself, Mr. GUEST, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

Reported with an amendment, 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 March 24, 2025]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities.

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 “Cormorant Relief Act*
 5 *of 2025”.*

6 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS RELATING TO TAKING OF DOUBLE-**
 7 **CRESTED CORMORANTS AT AQUACULTURE**
 8 **FACILITIES.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reissue the*
 10 *original depredation order in accordance with subsection*
 11 *(b).*

12 *(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The depredation order reissued*
 13 *under subsection (a) shall be the same as the original depre-*
 14 *dation order, except that the depredation order reissued*
 15 *under subsection (a) shall—*

16 *(1) apply to—*

17 *(A) each of the States of California, Colo-*
 18 *rado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,*
 19 *Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsyl-*
 20 *vania, and Wisconsin and any other State or*
 21 *territory of the United States the Secretary de-*
 22 *termines appropriate in addition to and in the*
 23 *same manner as each of the States to which the*
 24 *original depredation order applied; and*

1 (B) lake managers and pond managers in
2 addition to and in the same manner as each of
3 the entities to which the original depredation
4 order applied;

5 (2) incorporate modern terminology;

6 (3) simplify the provisions contained in the
7 original depredation order related to compliance with
8 other Federal law;

9 (4) modernize the recordkeeping requirements
10 contained in the original depredation order; and

11 (5) remove the June 30, 2014, expiration date
12 contained in the original depredation order.

13 (c) *RENEWAL*.—Not less than once every 5 years after
14 the date on which the Secretary reissues the original depre-
15 dation order under subsection (a), the Secretary shall renew
16 the depredation order reissued under subsection (a).

17 (d) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION*.—Nothing in this Act
18 may be construed to waive the obligation of the Secretary
19 to comply with the—

20 (1) *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*
21 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*); or

22 (2) *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* (16 U.S.C. 703
23 *et seq.*).

24 (e) *DEFINITIONS*.—In this section:

1 (1) *LAKE MANAGER*.—*The term “lake manager”*
2 *means a person that is licensed by a State regulatory*
3 *agency to manage a private lake.*

4 (2) *ORIGINAL DEPREDAATION ORDER*.—*The term*
5 *“original depredation order” means the depredation*
6 *order for double-crested cormorants at aquaculture fa-*
7 *cilities contained in section 21.47 of title 50, Code of*
8 *Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1,*
9 *2016).*

10 (3) *POND MANAGER*.—*The term “pond manager”*
11 *means a person that is licensed by a State regulatory*
12 *agency to manage a private pond.*

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

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