TO AMEND AND REAUTHORIZE THE JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONSERVATION AND DESIGN PROGRAM ACT OF 1994

APRIL 26, 2010.—Ordered to be printed

MRS. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3537]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred a bill (H.R. 3537) to amend and reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act is an art and science program designed to teach wetlands habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school and help reconnect youth with the outdoors. The program distributes educational material about migratory waterfowl and their habitats and promotes a wildlife art competition in all 50 states. More than 28,000 students participate in the Nationwide Junior Duck Stamp art contest each year, and the winning entry is reproduced as a Junior Duck Stamp. Proceeds from the sale of these stamps are used to support conservation education programs, awards, and scholarships of Junior Duck Stamp Program participants. In 2007–2008, sales of the Junior Duck Stamp generated more than $100,000 in revenue.

In addition to the annual art contest for the design of the Stamp, the program features a science and art-based curriculum designed to help teach wetland and wildlife conservation principles, by pair-
ing science and the arts for children from kindergarten through high school. The program’s goal is to encourage students to become stewards of America’s outdoors.

H.R. 3537 reauthorizes the program, increases authorization for appropriations to $500,000 per year, removes limitations on the use of funds for administrative expenses, and amends the Program’s reporting requirements.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LEGISLATION


SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 provides that this Act may be cited as the “Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act of 2009.”

Section 2. Findings

Section 2 provides the general purpose of the bill, along with several findings which: Acknowledge the past and current success of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program as a youth-focused biology program; recognize the strong multi-sector partnerships fostered by the Program; and appreciate the Program’s preparation of thousands of students to become stewards of America’s outdoors.

Section 3. Reporting requirement

Section 3 amends Section 2(c)(2) of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 719(c)(2)) to require the Secretary to submit to Congress status reports on the Program every 5 years, beginning in 2010.

Section 4. Authorization of appropriations

Section 4 amends Section 6 of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 719c) to authorize the Secretary to appropriate $500,000 to the Program for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

H.R. 3537 was introduced on September 8, 2009 by Congressman Solomon Ortiz (D–TX). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife. On October 9, 2009, the bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent. On October 13, 2009 H.R. 3537 was passed by the House of Representatives by voice vote. On December 10, 2009 the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works ordered the bill favorably reported without amendment.

HEARINGS

On September 22, 2009, the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife of the House Committee on Natural Resources
held a hearing on the bill. On December 3, 2009, the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a legislative hearing on multiple wildlife and invasive species bills, including H.R. 3537.

ROLLCALL VOTES

The Committee on Environment and Public Works met to consider H.R. 3537 on December 10, 2009. The bill was ordered favorably reported by voice.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with section 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee finds that H.R. 3537 does not create any additional regulatory burdens, nor will it cause any adverse impact on the personal privacy of individuals.

MANDATES ASSESSMENT

In compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–4), the committee noted that the Congressional Budget Office has found, “The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.”

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE


Hon. Barbara Boxer,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Madam Chairman: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 3537, the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act of 2009.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Elmendorf.

Enclosure.


H.R. 3537 would authorize the appropriation of $500,000 for the junior duck stamp program for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts each year, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3537 would cost about $2 million over the 2011–2014 period and about $500,000 in 2015. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers this program, spends less than $100,000 a year for this purpose, mostly to conduct the annual competition for the design of junior duck stamps.

The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.
On October 6, 2009, CBO provided a cost estimate for H.R. 3537, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 30, 2009. The two pieces of legislation are identical as are the estimated costs.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis and Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill as reported are shown as follows: Existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in [black brackets], new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman:

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JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONSERVATION AND DESIGN PROGRAM ACT OF 1994

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SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) may carry out in accordance with this Act a program to be known as the “Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program” (in this Act referred to as the “Program”) to accomplish the goals of—

1. providing to school children environmental education opportunities relating to the conservation and management of migratory birds; and

2. increasing the capacity for schools, States, and other educational programs to conduct conservation and education programs.

(b) PROGRAM FEATURES.—The Program shall consist of—

1. conducting in all interested States the activities which on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act are conducted under the program known as the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program;

2. other activities authorized under the Program by this or any other Act; and

3. any other activity necessary to carry out the conservation and education goals of the Program.

(c) EFFORT TO CONDUCT PROGRAM IN ALL STATES.—

1. IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall take appropriate steps to seek to conduct the Program in all of the States.

2. ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually submit a report to the Congress on the status of the Program in each of the States.

2. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Beginning in 2010 and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the Program in each State.

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SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for administrative expenses of the Program $350,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO STATE AND REGIONAL COORDINATORS TO IMPLEMENT COMPETITIONS.—Of the amount appropriated under this section for a fiscal year—

(1) not more than $100,000 may be used by the Secretary to administer the Program; and

(2) not more than $250,000 may be distributed to State and regional coordinators to implement competitions under the Program.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for administrative expenses of the Program $500,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015.

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