

Public Law 94-215  
94th Congress

An Act

To extend until the close of 1983 the period in which appropriations are authorized to be appropriated for the acquisition of wetlands, to increase the maximum amount of such authorization, and for other purposes.

Feb. 17, 1976  
[H.R. 5608]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That this Act may be cited as the "Wetlands Loan Extension Act of 1976".

SEC. 2. (a) The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to promote the conservation of migratory waterfowl by the acquisition of wetlands and other essential waterfowl habitat, and for other purposes", approved October 4, 1961 (16 U.S.C. 715k-3) is amended by striking out "fifteen-year period beginning with fiscal year 1962, not to exceed \$105,000,000." and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "period beginning on July 1, 1961, and ending at the close of September 30, 1983, not to exceed \$200,000,000."

Wetlands Loan  
Extension Act of  
1976.  
16 USC 715k-3  
note.

(b) Section 3 of such Act of October 4, 1961 (16 U.S.C. 715k-5) is amended—

(1) by striking out "with fiscal year 1977," and inserting in lieu thereof "on October 1, 1983,";

(2) by striking out "prior to the end of the aforesaid fifteen-year period," and inserting in lieu thereof "before October 1, 1983,"; and

(3) by striking out "year: *Provided further*, That no" and inserting in lieu thereof "year. No".

SEC. 3. (a) The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to supplement and support the Migratory Bird Conservation Act by providing funds for the acquisition of areas for use as migratory-bird sanctuaries, refuges, and breeding grounds, for developing and administering such areas, for the protection of certain migratory birds, for the enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and regulations thereunder, and for other purposes", approved March 16, 1934 (16 U.S.C. 718a; commonly known as the "Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act") is amended by inserting after "hunting" in the first sentence the words "and conservation".

Migratory bird  
hunting and  
conservation  
stamp.

(b) The first sentence of section 2 of such Act of March 16, 1934 (16 U.S.C. 718b) is amended to read as follows: "The stamps required by section 1 of this Act shall be issued and sold by the Postal Service and may be sold by the Department of the Interior, pursuant to regulations prescribed jointly by the Postal Service and the Secretary of the Interior, at (1) each post office of the first- and second-class, and (2) any establishment, facility, or location as the Postal Service and the Secretary of the Interior shall direct or authorize. The funds received from the sale of such stamps by the Department of the Interior shall be deposited in the migratory bird conservation fund in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of this Act."

(c) The fifth sentence of section 2 of such Act of March 16, 1934 (16 U.S.C. 718b), is amended to read as follows: "The Postal Service, pursuant to regulations prescribed by it, shall provide for the redemption, on or before the 30th day of September of each fiscal year, of blocks composed of two or more attached unused stamps issued for such year (A) that were sold on consignment to any person, including,

but not limited to, retail dealers for resale to their customers, and (B) that have not been resold by any such person.”

(d) The first sentence of section 4 of such Act of March 16, 1934 (16 U.S.C. 718d), is amended by inserting immediately after “Postal Service” the following: “or the Department of the Interior, whichever is appropriate.”

Land and water, rental or purchase.

SEC. 4. Section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: “For purposes of this Act, the purchase or rental of any area of land, water, or land and water includes the purchase or rental of any interest in any such area of land, water, or land and water.”

Property, exchange or cash equalization.

SEC. 5. Paragraph (3) of section 4(b) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(b)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) to acquire lands or interests therein by exchange (A) for acquired lands or public lands, or for interests in acquired or public lands, under his jurisdiction which he finds to be suitable for disposition, or (B) for the right to remove, in accordance with such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, products from the acquired or public lands within the System. The values of the properties so exchanged either shall be approximately equal, or if they are not approximately equal the values shall be equalized by the payment of cash to the grantor or to the Secretary as the circumstances require.”

Approved February 17, 1976.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

HOUSE REPORT No. 94-335 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries).

SENATE REPORT No. 94-594 (Comm. on Commerce).

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:**

Vol. 121 (1975): July 8, considered and passed House.

Vol. 122 (1976): Jan. 29, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Feb. 3, House concurred in Senate amendments with amendments.

Feb. 4, Senate concurred in House amendments.

**WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS:**

Vol. 12, No. 8 (1976): Feb. 17, Presidential statement.