

Calendar No. 466

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 1865****[Report No. 113–210]**

To amend the prices set for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2013

Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

JULY 15, 2014

Reported by Mrs. BOXER, with an amendment

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To amend the prices set for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Migratory Bird Habi-
3 tat Investment and Enhancement Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Con-
7 servation Stamps (commonly known as “duck
8 stamps”) were created in 1934 as Federal licenses
9 required for hunting migratory waterfowl;

10 (2)(A) duck stamps are a vital tool for wetland
11 conservation;

12 (B) 98 percent of the receipts from duck stamp
13 sales are used to acquire important migratory bird
14 breeding, migration, and wintering habitat, which
15 are added to the National Wildlife Refuge System;
16 and

17 (C) those benefits extend to all wildlife, not just
18 ducks;

19 (3) since its inception, the Federal duck stamp
20 program has—

21 (A) generated more than \$750,000,000;

22 (B) preserved more than 5,000,000 acres
23 of wetland and wildlife habitat; and

24 (C) is considered among the most success-
25 ful conservation programs ever initiated;

1 (4)(A) since 1934, when duck stamps cost \$1,
 2 the price has been increased 7 times to the price in
 3 effect on the date of enactment of this Act of \$15,
 4 which took effect in 1991; and

5 (B) the price of the duck stamp has not in-
 6 creased since 1991, the longest single period without
 7 an increase in program history; and

8 (5) with the price unchanged during the 20-
 9 year period preceding the date of enactment of this
 10 Act, duck stamps have lost 40 percent of their value
 11 based on the consumer price index, while the United
 12 States Fish and Wildlife Service reports the price of
 13 land in targeted wetland areas has tripled from an
 14 average of \$306 to \$1,091 per acre.

15 **SEC. 3. COST OF STAMPS.**

16 Section 2 of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Con-
 17 servation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718b) is amended by
 18 striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

19 “(b) COST OF STAMPS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the 5-calendar-year pe-
 21 riod beginning with calendar year 2014, and for
 22 each 5-calendar-year period thereafter, the Sec-
 23 retary, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Con-
 24 servation Commission, shall establish the amount to
 25 be collected under paragraph (2) for each stamp sold

1 under this section, provided that the amount shall
2 not exceed \$25 for the initial 5-calendar-year period
3 and not exceed \$30 for ~~the~~ *any* subsequent 5-cal-
4 endar-year period.

5 “(2) COLLECTION OF AMOUNTS.—The United
6 States Postal Service, the Department of the Inte-
7 rior, or any other agent approved by the Department
8 of the Interior, shall collect the amount established
9 under paragraph (1) for each stamp sold under this
10 section for a hunting year if the Secretary deter-
11 mines, at any time before February 1 of the cal-
12 endar year during which the hunting year begins,
13 that all amounts described in paragraph (3) have
14 been obligated for expenditure.

15 “(3) AMOUNTS.—The amounts described in this
16 paragraph are amounts in the Migratory Bird Con-
17 servation Fund available for obligation and attrib-
18 utable to—

19 “(A) amounts appropriated pursuant to
20 this Act for the fiscal year ending in the imme-
21 diately preceding calendar year; and

22 “(B) the sale of stamps under this section
23 during that fiscal year.”.

1 **SEC. 4. WAIVERS.**

2 Section 1(a) of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Con-
3 servation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a(a)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and sub-
5 section (d)” after “paragraph (2)”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(d) WAIVERS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
9 tion with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commis-
10 sion, may waive requirements under this section for
11 such individuals as the Secretary, in consultation
12 with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission,
13 determines to be appropriate.

14 “(2) LIMITATION.—In making the determina-
15 tion described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
16 grant only those waivers the Secretary determines
17 will have a minimal adverse effect on funds to be de-
18 posited in the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund es-
19 tablished under section 4(a)(3).”.

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