

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6013

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Migratory Bird Frame-
3 work and Hunting Opportunities for Veterans Act”.

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

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

9 “(c) **FEDERAL FRAMEWORK CLOSING DATE FOR**
10 **HUNTING OF DUCKS, MERGANSERS, AND COOTS.—**

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

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

1 “(B) allow the States to establish the clos-
2 ing date for the hunting season in accordance
3 with the Federal framework.

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

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

19 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting days
20 under subparagraph (A), a State shall ensure
21 that—

22 “(i) the days selected—

23 “(I) do not fall within the regular
24 hunting season for ducks, mergansers,
25 and coots;

1 “(II) with regard to youth days,
2 are on a weekend, holiday or other
3 day in which schools are not in ses-
4 sion; and

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

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

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

20 “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pro-
21 mulgate regulations in accordance with this sub-
22 section for the Federal framework for migratory bird

- 1 hunting for the 2019–2020 hunting season and each
- 2 hunting season thereafter.”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 25,
2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.