

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2942

To amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to establish January 31 of each year as the Federal closing date for duck hunting season and to establish special duck hunting days for youths, veterans, and active military personnel, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2018

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to establish January 31 of each year as the Federal closing date for 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

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

6 “(c) **FEDERAL CLOSING DATE FOR HUNTING OF**
7 **DUCKS, MERGANSERS, AND COOTS.—**

8 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In promulgating regula-
9 tions under subsection (a) relating to a framework
10 for migratory bird hunting, except as provided in
11 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall establish January
12 31 of each year as the Federal closing date of the
13 hunting season for ducks, mergansers, and coots.

14 “(2) **SPECIAL DUCK HUNTING DAYS FOR**
15 **YOUTHS, VETERANS, AND ACTIVE MILITARY PER-**
16 **SONNEL.**—Notwithstanding the closing date under
17 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allow youths, vet-
18 erans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United
19 States Code), and members of the Armed Forces on
20 active duty, including members of the National
21 Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for
22 training), to hunt ducks, mergansers, and coots dur-
23 ing the first weekend in February of each year.

24 “(3) **PROHIBITION.**—With respect to ducks,
25 mergansers, and coots, the Secretary shall not de-
26 crease the length of the hunting season or bag limit,

as compared to the length of the hunting season and
bag limit for the 2017–2018 hunting season, in—

“(A) the Atlantic flyway;

“(B) the Mississippi flyway;

“(C) the Central flyway; or

“(D) the Pacific flyway.

“(4) REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60
days after the date of enactment of this sub-
section, the Secretary shall promulgate regula-
tions in accordance with this subsection.

“(B) 2018–2019 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNT-
ING SEASON.—The Secretary shall modify the
proposed rule entitled ‘Migratory Bird Hunting;
Proposed Frameworks for Migratory Bird
Hunting Regulations’ (83 Fed. Reg. 4964 (Feb-
ruary 2, 2018)) if, before the date of enactment
of this subsection—

“(i) the proposed rule has been final-
ized; and

“(ii) the 2018–2019 duck hunting
season has not commenced in—

“(I) the Atlantic flyway;

“(II) the Mississippi flyway;

“(III) the Central flyway; or

“(IV) the Pacific flyway.”.

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