

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2156

To amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, to set prices 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

MARCH 6, 2012

Mr. BEGICH 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 Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, to set prices 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

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

7 (2)(A) duck stamps are a vital tool for wetland
8 conservation;

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

14 (C) those benefits extend to all wildlife, not just
15 ducks;

16 (3) since its inception, the Federal duck stamp
17 program has—

18 (A) generated more than \$500,000,000;

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

21 (C) been called 1 of the most successful
22 conservation programs ever initiated;

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

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

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

11 (B) a duck stamp would need to cost more than
 12 \$24 as of the date of enactment of this Act just to
 13 maintain the earlier buying power of the stamp.

14 **SEC. 3. COST OF STAMPS.**

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

18 “(b) COST OF STAMPS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For a 5-calendar-year pe-
 20 riod beginning with calendar year 2013, and for
 21 each 5-calendar-year period thereafter, the Sec-
 22 retary, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Con-
 23 servation Commission, shall establish the amount to
 24 be collected under paragraph (2) for each stamp sold
 25 under this section.

1 “(2) COLLECTION OF AMOUNTS.—The Postal
 2 Service shall collect the amount established under
 3 paragraph (1) for each stamp sold under this section
 4 for a hunting year if the Secretary determines, at
 5 any time before February 1 of the calendar year
 6 during which the hunting year begins, that all
 7 amounts described in paragraph (3) have been obli-
 8 gated for expenditure.

9 “(3) AMOUNTS.—The amounts described in this
 10 paragraph are amounts in the Migratory Bird Con-
 11 servation Fund available for obligation and attrib-
 12 utable to—

13 “(A) amounts appropriated pursuant to
 14 this Act for the fiscal year ending in the imme-
 15 diately preceding calendar year; and

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

18 **SEC. 4. WAIVERS.**

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

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

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

24 “(d) WAIVERS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
2 tion with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commis-
3 sion, may waive requirements under this section for
4 such individuals as the Secretary, in consultation
5 with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission,
6 determines to be appropriate.

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

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