

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1255

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 2, 2025

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to reissue certain regulations relating to the taking of double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities, 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 “Cormorant Relief Act
5 of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS RELATING TO TAKING OF DOUBLE-** 7 **CRESTED CORMORANTS AT AQUACULTURE** 8 **FACILITIES.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) LAKE MANAGER.—The term “lake man-
2 ager” means a person that is licensed by a State
3 regulatory agency to manage a private lake.

4 (2) ORIGINAL DEPREDATION ORDER.—The
5 term “original depredation order” means the depre-
6 dation order for double-crested cormorants at aqua-
7 culture facilities contained in section 21.47 of title
8 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
9 January 1, 2016).

10 (3) POND MANAGER.—The term “pond man-
11 ager” means a person that is licensed by a State
12 regulatory agency to manage a private pond.

13 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
15 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
16 ice.

17 (b) REISSUANCE REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
19 reissue the original depredation order in accordance with
20 subsection (c).

21 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—The depredation order re-
22 issued under subsection (b) shall be the same as the origi-
23 nal depredation order, except that the depredation order
24 reissued under that subsection shall apply—

1 (1) to each of the States of California, Colo-
2 rado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan,
3 Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wis-
4 consin in addition to, and in the same manner as,
5 each of the States to which the original depredation
6 order applied; and

7 (2) to lake managers and pond managers in ad-
8 dition to, and in the same manner as, each of the
9 entities to which the original depredation order ap-
10 plied.

○