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111TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT 111–183

TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF LOUISIANA FOR A PILOT PROGRAM TO DEVELOP MEASURES TO ERADICATE OR CONTROL FERAL SWINE AND TO ASSESS AND RESTORE WETLANDS DAMAGED BY FERAL SWINE

MAY 5, 2010.—Ordered to be printed

Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1965]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred a bill (S. 1965) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Louisiana for a pilot program to develop measures to eradicate or control feral swine and to assess and restore wetlands damaged by feral swine, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

Feral swine are present in at least 39 states and cause extensive damage to natural habitats, including wetlands, as well as private property and crops. While digging for food (rooting), feral swine displace native wildlife and destroy vegetation, leading to increased erosion and invasive plant infestation. They compete with native species for food resources and prey on young livestock and small animals. Feral swine also carry diseases that affect pets, livestock, wildlife, and humans.

The feral swine population in on Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge in central Louisiana is at an epidemic level with an estimated one swine per four acres of habitat. Roughly 30 to 50 percent of grain crops planted on the refuge to support waterfowl populations are destroyed by feral swine. An aggressive and sustained effort utilizing multiple techniques is needed to control feral swine populations on national wildlife refuges and parks in order to protect native wildlife and their habitats.

89–010

The Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program Act of 2009 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Louisiana to pay up to 75 percent of the cost of carrying out a pilot program to eradicate feral swine. The bill authorizes annual appropriations of $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2013.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LEGISLATION

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Louisiana for a pilot program to develop measures to eradicate or control feral swine and to assess and restore wetlands damaged by feral swine.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 provides that this Act may be cited as the "Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program Act of 2009."

Section 2. Findings and purpose

Section 2 provides the general purpose of the bill, along with several findings which: Recognize the economic and environmental importance of Louisiana wetlands; acknowledge the damaging impacts of increasing nonnative invasive feral swine populations on Louisiana wetlands; and, determine that the methodologies under the Coastwide Nutria Control Program established under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act may provide the basis for control and restoration of wetlands damaged by feral swine.

Section 3. Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program

Section 3 outlines the eligible activities for assistance under the Act, including: Study and assess the nature and extent of wetland damage caused by feral swine; develop methods to eradicate or control feral swine; and develop methods to restore damaged wetlands. Section 3 also establishes coordination and cost share requirements, limits administrative expenses, and authorizes $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2013.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 1965 was introduced on October 28, 2009 by Senator Mary Landrieu (D–LA) with one cosponsor. The bill was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. On December 10, 2009, the full Environment and Public Works Committee met to consider the bill. The bill was ordered reported favorably without amendment.

HEARINGS

On December 3, 2009, the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a legislative hearing on multiple wildlife and invasive species bills, including S. 1965.

ROLLCALL VOTES

The Committee on Environment and Public Works met to consider S. 1965 on December 10, 2009. The bill was ordered favorably reported by voice vote.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with section 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee finds that H.R. 3433 does not create any additional regulatory burdens, nor will it cause any adverse impact on the personal privacy of individuals.

MANDATES ASSESSMENT

In compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–4), the committee noted that the Congressional Budget Office has found, "S. 1965 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments."

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

DECEMBER 15, 2009.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1965, the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program Act of 2009.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Daniel Hoople.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

S. 1965—Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program Act of 2009

S. 1965 would authorize the appropriation of $1 million in each of fiscal years 2011 through 2013 for the Department of the Interior (DOI) to study and develop methods to control and eradicate feral swine in Louisiana and to restore wetlands damaged by such animals. The federal government would pay 75 percent of the costs related to a pilot study, the development of methods to eradicate or control feral swine, and the restoration of damaged wetlands in the state. Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that financial assistance to the state of Louisiana under the bill would cost $3 million over the 2011–2014 period. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1965 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Louisiana would benefit from the program authorized in the bill. Any costs to the state would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Daniel Hoople. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

Section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires the committee to publish changes in existing law made by the bill as reported. Passage of this bill will make no changes to existing law.

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