

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1865

To amend the prices set 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

DECEMBER 19, 2013

Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the prices set 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”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Con-
9 servation Stamps (commonly known as “duck

1 stamps”) were created in 1934 as Federal licenses
2 required for hunting migratory waterfowl;

3 (2)(A) duck stamps are a vital tool for wetland
4 conservation;

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

10 (C) those benefits extend to all wildlife, not just
11 ducks;

12 (3) since its inception, the Federal duck stamp
13 program has—

14 (A) generated more than \$750,000,000;

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

17 (C) is considered among the most success-
18 ful conservation programs ever initiated;

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

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

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

8 **SEC. 3. COST OF STAMPS.**

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

12 “(b) COST OF STAMPS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the 5-calendar-year pe-
14 riod beginning with calendar year 2014, and for
15 each 5-calendar-year period thereafter, the Sec-
16 retary, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Con-
17 servation Commission, shall establish the amount to
18 be collected under paragraph (2) for each stamp sold
19 under this section, provided that the amount shall
20 not exceed \$25 for the initial 5-calendar-year period
21 and not exceed \$30 for the subsequent 5-calendar-
22 year period.

23 “(2) COLLECTION OF AMOUNTS.—The United
24 States Postal Service, the Department of the Inte-
25 rior, or any other agent approved by the Department

1 of the Interior, shall collect the amount established
 2 under paragraph (1) for each stamp sold under this
 3 section for a hunting year if the Secretary deter-
 4 mines, at any time before February 1 of the cal-
 5 endar year during which the hunting year begins,
 6 that all amounts described in paragraph (3) have
 7 been obligated for expenditure.

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

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

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

17 **SEC. 4. WAIVERS.**

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

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

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

23 “(d) WAIVERS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
 25 tion with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commis-

1 sion, may waive requirements under this section for
2 such individuals as the Secretary, in consultation
3 with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission,
4 determines to be appropriate.

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

○