

Calendar No. 343

113TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
113-145

PERMANENT ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2013

APRIL 1, 2014.—Ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1206]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred a bill (H.R. 1206) to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

Hunters over the age of 16 must purchase a Federal Duck Stamp each year if they want to hunt migratory waterfowl. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland and waterfowl habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been carrying out a pilot program that allows customers the option to purchase the federal duck stamp online. This program is operating in eight states. H.R. 1206 would extend the pilot program to all states and make it permanent. To sell stamps electronically a state must submit an application to the Secretary for approval. The legislation also outlines requirements for the sale of electronic stamps, fees that can be charged, and validity of electronic stamps.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LEGISLATION

The Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (H.R. 1206) permanently authorizes a program to issue electronic duck stamps.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 provides that this Act may be cited as the ‘Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013’.

Section 2. Definitions

Section 2 provides definitions of several terms used in the Act.

Section 3. Authority to issue electronic duck stamps

Section 3 authorizes the Secretary to issue electronic duck stamps in consultation with State management agencies.

Section 4. State application

Section 4 establishes application requirements for authorization of State programs that sell electronic duck stamps

Section 5. State obligations and authorities

Section 5 establishes requirements for the sale of electronic duck stamps and the collection of revenues.

Section 6. Electronic stamp requirements; recognition of electronic stamp

Section 6 establishes requirements for the format and recognition of electronic stamps.

Section 7. Termination of state participation

Section 7 directs the Secretary to terminate a State’s authority to issue electronic duck stamps if the Secretary finds that the State has violated any of the terms of the application of the State approved by the Secretary under Section 4.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

H.R. 1206 was introduced by Representative Wittman (R–VA) on March 14, 2013. On May 17, 2013, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill reported favorably. The bill passed the House of Representatives on June 3, 2013 by a vote of 401–0. The bill was received, read twice, and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on June 4, 2013. On February 6, 2014, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works ordered the bill reported favorably without amendment.

On April 16, 2013, Senators Wicker, Pryor, and Cochran introduced S. 738, the Senate companion to H.R. 1206.

HEARINGS

There were no hearings on H.R. 1206.

ROLLCALL VOTES

The Committee on Environment and Public Works met to consider H.R. 1206 on February 6, 2014. The bill was ordered reported favorably 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. 1206 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, “H.R. 1206 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.”

FEBRUARY 12, 2014.

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 H.R. 1206, the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013.

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

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

H.R. 1206—Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013

H.R. 1206 would authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to permanently allow any state to provide hunting and conservation stamps for migratory birds (referred to as federal duck stamps) electronically. The electronic stamps would remain valid for 45 days to allow for the physical stamps to arrive in the mail. A pilot program that authorized a limited number of states to issue electronic stamps expired in 2010, although the USFWS has continued the program under other authorities.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1206 would affect direct spending and revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Under current law, amounts collected from the sale of duck stamps are deposited in the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and are available to be spent without further appropriation for waterfowl conservation projects. CBO estimates that the net effects of enacting the bill would be insignificant over the 2014–2024 period because we expect that the number of additional stamps purchased would not be significant.

H.R. 1206 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.

On May 14, 2013, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1206, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 24, 2014. The two versions of the legislation are identical and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Martin von Gnechten. The 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.

