

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2293
OFFERED BY MR. EZELL OF MISSISSIPPI

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Cormorant Relief Act
3 of 2025”.

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

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reissue the
8 original depredation order in accordance with subsection
9 (b).

10 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The depredation order re-
11 issued under subsection (a) shall be the same as the origi-
12 nal depredation order, except that the depredation order
13 reissued under subsection (a) shall—

14 (1) apply to—

15 (A) each of the States of California, Colo-
16 rado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa,
17 Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsyl-
18 vania, and Wisconsin and any other State or

1 territory of the United States the Secretary de-
2 termines appropriate in addition to and in the
3 same manner as each of the States to which the
4 original depredation order applied; and

5 (B) lake managers and pond managers in
6 addition to and in the same manner as each of
7 the entities to which the original depredation
8 order applied;

9 (2) incorporate modern terminology;

10 (3) simplify the provisions contained in the
11 original depredation order related to compliance with
12 other Federal law;

13 (4) modernize the recordkeeping requirements
14 contained in the original depredation order; and

15 (5) remove the June 30, 2014, expiration date
16 contained in the original depredation order.

17 (c) RENEWAL.—Not less than once every 5 years
18 after the date on which the Secretary reissues the original
19 predation order under subsection (a), the Secretary
20 shall renew the depredation order reissued under sub-
21 section (a).

22 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
23 may be construed to waive the obligation of the Secretary
24 to comply with the—

1 (1) National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
2 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

3 (2) Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703
4 et seq.).

5 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

9 (2) ORIGINAL DEPREDACTION ORDER.—The
10 term “original depredation order” means the depre-
11 dation order for double-crested cormorants at aqua-
12 culture facilities contained in section 21.47 of title
13 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
14 January 1, 2016).

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

18 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
20 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
21 ice.

