

**Suspend the Rules And Pass the Bill, H.R. 6013, With Amendments**

**(The amendments strike all after the enacting clause and insert a new text and a new title)**

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6013

To amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to establish January 31 of each year as the Federal closing date for duck hunting season and to establish special duck hunting days for youths, veterans, and active military personnel, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. BERGMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to establish January 31 of each year as the Federal closing date for duck hunting season and to establish special duck hunting days for youths, veterans, and active military personnel, 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 “Migratory Bird Frame-  
5 work and Hunting Opportunities for Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL CLOSING DATE FOR HUNTING OF DUCKS,**  
2 **MERGANSERS, AND COOTS.**

3 Section 3 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16  
4 U.S.C. 704) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 “(c) **FEDERAL FRAMEWORK CLOSING DATE FOR**  
7 **HUNTING OF DUCKS, MERGANSERS, AND COOTS.—**

8 “(1) **IN GENERAL.—**In promulgating regula-  
9 tions under subsection (a) relating to the Federal  
10 framework for outside dates within which the States  
11 may select seasons for migratory bird hunting, ex-  
12 cept as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary  
13 shall, with respect to the hunting season for ducks,  
14 mergansers, and coots—

15 “(A) adopt the recommendation of each re-  
16 spective flyway council (as defined in section  
17 20.152 of title 50, Code of Federal Regula-  
18 tions) for the Federal framework if considered  
19 by the Secretary to be consistent with science-  
20 based and sustainable adaptive harvest manage-  
21 ment, but the framework closing date shall be  
22 January 31 of each year; and

23 “(B) allow the States to establish the clos-  
24 ing date for the hunting season in accordance  
25 with the Federal framework.

1           “(2) SPECIAL DUCK HUNTING DAYS FOR  
2           YOUTHS, VETERANS, AND ACTIVE MILITARY PER-  
3           SONNEL.—

4           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the  
5           closing date under paragraph (1) and subject to  
6           subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary shall  
7           allow States to select 2 days for youths and 2  
8           days for veterans (as defined in section 101 of  
9           title 38, United States Code), and members of  
10          the Armed Forces on active duty, including  
11          members of the National Guard and Reserves  
12          on active duty (other than for training), to hunt  
13          ducks, mergansers, and coots. Such days shall  
14          be treated as an addition to the regular hunting  
15          season lengths selected by the States.

16          “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting days  
17          under subparagraph (A), a State shall ensure  
18          that—

19                  “(i) the days selected—

20                          “(I) do not fall within the regular  
21                          hunting season for ducks, mergansers,  
22                          and coots;

23                          “(II) with regard to youth days,  
24                          are on a weekend, holiday or other

1 day in which schools are not in ses-  
2 sion; and

3 “(III) are not more than 14 days  
4 before or after the hunting season for  
5 duck, mergansers, and coots; and

6 “(ii) the total number of days in a  
7 hunting season for ducks, mergansers and  
8 coots, including any days selected under  
9 subparagraph (A), is not more than 107  
10 days.

11 “(C) LIMITATION.—A State may combine  
12 the 2 days allowed for youths with the 2 days  
13 allowed for veterans and members of the Armed  
14 Forces on active duty under subparagraph (A),  
15 but in no circumstance may a State have more  
16 than a total of 4 additional days added to its  
17 regular hunting season for any purpose.

18 “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pro-  
19 mulgate regulations in accordance with this sub-  
20 section for the Federal framework for migratory bird  
21 hunting for the 2019–2020 hunting season and each  
22 hunting season thereafter.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to establish January 31 of each year as the Federal framework closing date for the duck hunting season and to establish special duck hunt-

ing days for youths, veterans, and active military personnel, and for other purposes.”.