

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4872

To allow postal patrons to invest in vanishing wildlife protection programs through the voluntary purchase of specially issued postage stamps.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2000

Mr. GILMAN (for himself, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To allow postal patrons to invest in vanishing wildlife protection programs through the voluntary purchase of specially issued postage stamps.

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 “Vanishing Wildlife
5 Stamp Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMPS RELATING TO VAN-**
2 **ISHING WILDLIFE PROTECTION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 39, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 414 the
5 following:

6 **“§414a. Special postage stamps relating to funding**
7 **vanishing wildlife protection programs**

8 “(a) In order to afford the public a convenient way
9 to invest in vanishing wildlife protection programs, the
10 Postal Service shall establish a special rate of postage for
11 first-class mail under this section.

12 “(b) The rate of postage established under this
13 section—

14 “(1) shall be no more than 25 percent higher
15 than the rate that would otherwise apply;

16 “(2) may be established without regard to any
17 procedures under chapter 36 of title 39, United
18 States Code, and notwithstanding any other provi-
19 sion of law; and

20 “(3) shall be offered as an alternative to the
21 regular first class rate of postage.

22 “(c) The use of the rate of postage established under
23 this section shall be voluntary on the part of postal pa-
24 trons.

25 “(d)(1) Amounts becoming available from public in-
26 vestment in wildlife protection programs shall be paid by

1 the Postal Service to the Department of Interior Multilat-
2 eral Species Conservation Fund. Payments under this sec-
3 tion shall be made under such arrangements as the Postal
4 Service shall, by mutual agreement with the Department
5 of Interior, establish in order to carry out the purposes
6 of this section, except that under those arrangements, pay-
7 ments to the Department of Interior shall be made at least
8 twice a year.

9 “(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘amounts
10 becoming available from public investment in vanishing
11 wildlife protection programs’ means—

12 “(A) the total amount of revenues received by
13 the Postal Service that it would not have received
14 but for the enactment of this section; reduced by

15 “(B) an amount sufficient to cover reasonable
16 costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out
17 this section, including costs attributable to the print-
18 ing, sale, and distribution of stamps under this sec-
19 tion,

20 as determined by the Postal Service under regulations that
21 it shall prescribe.

22 “(e) It is the sense of Congress that nothing in this
23 section should—

24 “(1) directly or indirectly cause a net decrease
25 in total funds received by the Department of Interior

1 or any other agency of the Government (or any com-
2 ponent or program thereof) below the level that
3 would otherwise have been received but for the en-
4 actment of this section; or

5 “(2) affect regular first-class rates of postage
6 or any other regular rates of postage.

7 “(f) Special postage stamps under this section shall
8 be made available to the public beginning on such date
9 as the Postal Service shall by regulation prescribe, but not
10 later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of
11 this section.

12 “(g) The Postmaster General shall include in each
13 report rendered under section 2402 with respect to any
14 period during any portion of which this section is in effect,
15 information concerning the operation of this section, ex-
16 cept that, at a minimum, each report shall include—

17 “(1) the total amount described in subsection
18 (d)(2)(A) which was received by the Postal Service
19 during the period covered by such report; and

20 “(2) of the amount under paragraph (1), how
21 much (in the aggregate and by category) was re-
22 quired for the purposes described in subsection
23 (d)(2)(B).

24 “(h) This section shall cease to be effective at the
25 end of the 2-year period beginning on the date on which

1 special postage stamps under this section are first made
2 available to the public.”.

3 (b) REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF
4 THE UNITED STATES.—Not later than 3 months (but no
5 earlier than 6 months) before the end of the 2-year period
6 referred to in section 414a(h) of title 39, United States
7 Code (as amended by subsection (a)), the Comptroller
8 General of the United States shall submit to the Congress
9 a report on the operation of such section. Such report shall
10 include—

11 (1) an evaluation of the effectiveness and the
12 appropriateness of the authority provided by such
13 section as a means of fund-raising; and

14 (2) a description of the monetary and other re-
15 sources required of the Postal Service in carrying
16 out such section.

17 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

18 (1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
19 for chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, is
20 amended by striking the item relating to section 414
21 and inserting the following:

“414. Special postage stamps relating to breast cancer.

“414a. Special postage stamps relating to funding vanishing wildlife protection
programs.”.

22 (2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading for sec-
23 tion 414 of title 39, United States Code, is amended
24 to read as follows:

1 “§ 414. Special postage stamps relating to breast
2 cancer”.

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