

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2870

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2000

Mr. JEFFORDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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”.

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

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

1 **“§ 414a. Special postage stamps relating to funding**
2 **vanishing wildlife protection programs**

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

7 “(b) The rate of postage established under this
8 section—

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

11 “(2) may be established without regard to any
12 procedures under chapter 36 of title 39, United
13 States Code, and notwithstanding any other provi-
14 sion of law; and

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

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

20 “(d)(1) Amounts becoming available from public in-
21 vestment in wildlife protection programs shall be paid by
22 the Postal Service to the Department of Interior Multilat-
23 eral Species Conservation Fund. Payments under this sec-
24 tion shall be made under such arrangements as the Postal
25 Service shall, by mutual agreement with the Department
26 of Interior, establish in order to carry out the purposes

1 of this section, except that under those arrangements, pay-
2 ments to the Department of Interior shall be made at least
3 twice a year.

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

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

10 “(B) an amount sufficient to cover reasonable
11 costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out
12 this section, including costs attributable to the print-
13 ing, sale, and distribution of stamps under this sec-
14 tion,

15 as determined by the Postal Service under regulations that
16 it shall prescribe.

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

19 “(1) directly or indirectly cause a net decrease
20 in total funds received by the Department of Interior
21 or any other agency of the Government (or any com-
22 ponent or program thereof) below the level that
23 would otherwise have been received but for the en-
24 actment of this section; or

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

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

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

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

16 “(2) of the amount under paragraph (1), how
17 much (in the aggregate and by category) was re-
18 quired for the purposes described in subsection
19 (d)(2)(B).

20 “(h) This section shall cease to be effective at the
21 end of the 2-year period beginning on the date on which
22 special postage stamps under this section are first made
23 available to the public.”.

24 (b) REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF
25 THE UNITED STATES.—Not later than 3 months (but no

1 earlier than 6 months) before the end of the 2-year period
2 referred to in section 414a(h) of title 39, United States
3 Code (as amended by subsection (a)), the Comptroller
4 General of the United States shall submit to the Congress
5 a report on the operation of such section. Such report shall
6 include—

7 (1) an evaluation of the effectiveness and the
8 appropriateness of the authority provided by such
9 section as a means of fund-raising; and

10 (2) a description of the monetary and other re-
11 sources required of the Postal Service in carrying
12 out such section.

13 (c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

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

“414. Special postage stamps relating to breast cancer.

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

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

21 “§ 414. **Special postage stamps relating to breast**
22 **cancer”.**

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