

HR 2293

Cormorant Relief Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Animals

Introduced: Mar 24, 2025

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Dec 10, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2293>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Ezell, Mike [R-MS-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** MS • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Guest, Michael [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Mar 24, 2025
Rep. Kelly, Trent [R-MS-1]	R · MS		Mar 24, 2025
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Mar 24, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 10, 2025
Natural Resources Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Apr 8, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Animals Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 S 1255	Related bill	Apr 2, 2025: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Cormorant Relief Act of 2025

This bill requires the Department of the Interior to reissue the depredation order for double-crested cormorants at aquaculture facilities in certain states. (The previous order was vacated in 2016 by court order.)

Depredation orders allow for the taking (i.e., capturing, killing, dispersing, or transport of the carcass) of a specified species without a permit, generally to reduce damage caused by the species or to protect interests like health or property. Reissuing this order authorizes landowners, operators, tenants, and employees of entities engaged in aquaculture to take double-crested cormorants that are causing or threatening harm at aquaculture facilities and state and federal fish hatcheries.

Interior must reissue the depredation order with updates, including an expansion of (1) the number of states covered by the order, and (2) the entities to whom the order applies (i.e., private lake and pond managers who are licensed by the state).

Under the bill, Interior must renew the depredation order every five years.

Actions Timeline

voice vote. (text: CR H5076-5077)

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Jul 15, 2025: Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held

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Mar 24, 2025: Introduced in House

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