

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION 52

By: Shurden of the Senate

and

Leist of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution requesting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide the states greater latitude in managing Canada geese; requesting less administrative burdens in providing for additional harvesting management; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Canada geese "Branta canadensis", including resident Canada geese occurring in Oklahoma, are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act as game birds and are therefore protected by federal law; and

WHEREAS, Canada geese are important Oklahoma migratory game birds highly regarded and sought after by state sportsmen and provide important recreational opportunities that result in significant direct and indirect contributions to the state's economy as a result of those activities; and

WHEREAS, resident Canada geese under largely urban situations, at certain locations during certain time periods, can congregate and create situations that can be considered a nuisance or a hazard for human health and safety; and

WHEREAS, proper management and conservation of populations of Canada geese, including resident Canada geese, require the oversight of professional state and federal wildlife managers; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is the State's constitutionally mandated agency to properly manage and conserve the state's wildlife resources, including Canada geese; and

WHEREAS, management authority vested in the states by federal authorities of the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently constrained by provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which limits additional hunting season length on Canada geese in Oklahoma. A change in the management authority could allow the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation the necessary latitude to properly manage resident Canada geese where nuisance and human health and safety concerns result in conflict with human activities through the implementation of additional harvest management provisions; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently in the process of completing a draft Environmental Impact Statement on Resident Canada Goose Management which will consider the provision of additional regulatory authority to the states to manage resident Canada geese as necessary to control nuisance situations and protect human health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature requests the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the development of the draft Environmental Impact Statement on Resident Canada Goose Management, to consider all possible management alternatives that can be provided to state wildlife agencies, including the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, that will result in the maximum latitude to properly manage and conserve resident populations of Canada geese, minimize the nuisance situations, and prevent risks to human health and safety.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature requests the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to minimize the administrative burden imposed on the states with the implementation of additional harvest management provisions.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

48-2-2964

THC

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