

## Calendar No. 303

112TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

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### FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PILOT PROGRAM ACT OF 2011

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JANUARY 26, 2012.—Ordered to be printed

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Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public  
Works, submitted the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 893]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred a bill (S. 893) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Louisiana for a pilot program to develop measures to eradicate or control feral swine and to assess and restore wetlands damaged by feral swine, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, feral swine are present in at least 39 states and cause extensive damage to natural habitats, including wetlands, as well as private property and crops. While digging for food (rooting), feral swine displace native wildlife and destroy vegetation, leading to increased erosion and invasive plant infestation. They compete with native species for food resources and prey on young livestock and small animals. Feral swine also carry diseases that affect pets, livestock, wildlife, and humans.

In testimony before the Committee, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service highlighted the feral swine population in on Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge in central Louisiana, which has reached an epidemic level an estimated one swine per four acres of habitat. Roughly 30 to 50 percent of grain crops planted on the refuge to support waterfowl populations are destroyed by feral swine. An ag-

gressive and sustained effort utilizing multiple techniques is needed to control feral swine populations on national wildlife refuges and parks in order to protect native wildlife and their habitats.

The Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program Act of 2011 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Louisiana to pay up to 75 percent of the cost of carrying out a pilot program to eradicate feral swine. The bill authorizes such sums as are necessary for fiscal years 2012 through 2016.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE LEGISLATION

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Louisiana for a pilot program to develop measures to eradicate or control feral swine and to assess and restore wetlands damaged by feral swine.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

##### *Section 1. Short title*

Section 1 provides that this Act may be cited as the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program Act of 2011.'

##### *Section 2. Findings and purpose*

Section 2 provides the general purpose of the bill, along with several findings which: recognize the economic and environmental importance of Louisiana wetlands; acknowledge the damaging impacts of increasing nonnative invasive feral swine populations on Louisiana wetlands; and, determine that the methodologies under the Coastwide Nutria Control Program established under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act may provide the basis for control and restoration of wetlands damaged by feral swine.

##### *Section 3. Feral swine eradication and control pilot program*

Section 3 outlines the eligible activities for assistance under the Act, including: study and assess the nature and extent of wetland damage caused by feral swine; develop methods to eradicate or control feral swine; and develop methods to restore damaged wetlands. Section 3 also establishes coordination and cost share requirements, limits administrative expenses, and authorizes such sums as are necessary for fiscal years 2012 through 2016.

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 893 was introduced on May 5, 2011 by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. On September 21, 2011, the full Environment and Public Works Committee met to consider the bill. The bill was ordered reported favorably without amendment.

#### HEARINGS

In the 111th Congress, the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a legislative hearing on multiple wildlife and invasive species bills, including the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Act of 2009 (S. 1965).

## ROLLCALL VOTES

The Committee on Environment and Public Works met to consider S. 893 on September 21, 2011. The bill was ordered favorably reported by voice vote with Senators Inhofe and Johanns recorded as “No”.

## REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with section 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee finds that S. 893 does not create any additional regulatory burdens, nor will it cause any adverse impact on the personal privacy of individuals.

## MANDATES ASSESSMENT

In compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–4), the committee noted that the Congressional Budget Office has found, “S. 893 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.”

## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

SEPTEMBER 29, 2011.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 893, the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program Act of 2011.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Jeff LaFave.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

*S. 893—Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program Act of 2011*

S. 893 would authorize appropriations over the 2012–2016 period for the Department of the Interior (DOI) to study and develop methods to control and eradicate feral swine in Louisiana and to restore wetlands damaged by such animals. Based on information from DOI and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$1 million a year over the 2012–2016 period. Enacting S. 893 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 893 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Louisiana would benefit from the program authorized in the bill. Any costs to the state would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

Section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires the committee to publish changes in existing law made by the bill as reported. Passage of this bill will make no changes to existing law.

