

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

HR 1045

4
5 By: Representatives Wardlaw, Pearce

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 TO COMMEMORATE THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
10 SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM AS PART OF THE
11 AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION FUNDING.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO COMMEMORATE THE SEVENTY-FIFTH
16 ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPORT FISH
17 RESTORATION PROGRAM AS PART OF THE
18 AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION FUNDING.

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20 WHEREAS, more than a century ago, hunters and anglers were among the
21 first conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril
22 and could not sustain unregulated harvesting and habitat destruction; and

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24 WHEREAS, sportsmen and sportswomen took it upon themselves to support
25 laws that stopped excessive harvesting of fish and wildlife, established
26 state agencies to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitats, and supported
27 special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund the new agencies'
28 efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations; and

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30 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives then and now recognizes that the
31 primary authority to protect and manage fish within Arkansas's waters resides
32 in the state agencies; and

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34 WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to
35 restore and sustain healthy fish populations, anglers supported excise taxes
36 on fishing equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration and



1 enhancement efforts of the state agencies; and

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3 WHEREAS, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began seventy-five
4 (75) years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration
5 Act in 1950 is a vital part of conservation funding in the United States; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act was further
8 expanded with the Wallop-Breaux amendment in 1984; and

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10 WHEREAS, a manufacturers excise tax on fishing equipment, along with an
11 excise tax on motorboat and small engine fuels, is mostly distributed back to
12 the states through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for fisheries
13 conservation, management, and angler and boater access; and

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15 WHEREAS, this cooperative partnership between the sportfishing
16 industry, anglers, boaters, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and
17 state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of
18 fisheries management in the world, restoring and enhancing populations across
19 the United States and its territories; and

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21 WHEREAS, since 1939, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and
22 Sport Fish Restoration Program, and license fees to state fish and wildlife
23 agencies exceeds seventy-eight billion dollars (\$78,000,000,000) and this is
24 more than any other single conservation effort in American history,

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26 NOW THEREFORE,

27 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
28 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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30 THAT the House of Representatives recognize America's anglers, boaters,
31 the sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United
32 States Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy
33 populations of fish and aquatic resources, both game and nongame, to the
34 abundance we see today with the help of the Sport Fish Restoration Program,
35 in this the seventy-fifth (75th) anniversary year of the program's
36 establishment as part of the American System of Conservation Funding.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be
2 provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Arkansas
3 State Game and Fish Commission, all Arkansas congressional offices, and
4 local, regional and national media sources so that all may know and
5 appreciate the foresight and contributions from anglers, the sportfishing
6 industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and
7 Wildlife Service on behalf of our nation's fisheries and aquatic resources.

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