

# SCSL Digital Collections

## [Veto of H. 3510, R-97]

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# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267  
COLUMBIA 29211

June 6, 2007

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Post Office Box 11867  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3510, R-97.

This bill would make a hunting permit the only legal document for hunting migratory waterfowl in South Carolina. There is also some cleanup language of the migratory waterfowl committee and the sale of stamps to allow for the sale of commemorative stamps. Finally, this legislation increases the stamp from \$5.50 to \$10.

If the bill came to me with only the first two sections, I would have supported this legislation. Furthermore, it is my understanding that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) pushed for the first two components of this bill, but it was some in the legislative body who added the third component. The fee increase on hunters is, in my view, problematic. As a result, I am compelled to veto this legislation.

What I find particularly amazing is that, in a year where \$1.5 billion in new revenue is coming to Columbia, that legislation nearly doubling the duck stamp fee is sent to my desk. While a dedicated fee ensures that cost is clearly tied to benefit, the financial picture in Columbia lends itself to being more prudent with fee increases. Last year, the migratory waterfowl program ran a surplus of \$34,000, adding questions as to whether a fee increase is necessary at this time.

Even if the General Assembly were not willing to use any of the additional revenues in this historic year to provide additional funds, there are simple savings at the Department of Natural Resources that could be used for wildlife management programs like this one. Over the past three years, we have proposed in the Executive Budget a plan that would consolidate boat registration and titling into the Department of Motor Vehicles. There would be a large public benefit because DMV currently has 68 offices statewide versus the five that DNR operates. In addition, unlike DNR, the DMV offers Saturday hours in some locations as an added benefit to the public. The estimated cost savings of this program would be approximately \$1.6 million that could be reinvested into the agency for conservation-related programs. In short, there are other options available to policymakers before imposing a permanent fee increase on the duck hunters of this state.

For the above reasons, I am vetoing H. 3510, R-97.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Sanford