

(4) The methods of capture, transport, and maintenance of the species minimizes the risk of injury or damage to health, including inhumane treatment.

(Pub. L. 102-440, title I, §106, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2227.)

§ 4906. Qualifying facilities

(a) Determination

Upon submission of a petition under section 4909 of this title by any person, the Secretary shall determine whether an exotic bird breeding facility is a qualifying facility. Such determination shall be effective for a period specified by the Secretary, which may not exceed 3 years. The Secretary shall, from time to time, publish a list of qualifying facilities in the Federal Register.

(b) Criteria

The Secretary shall determine under subsection (a) of this section that a facility is a qualifying facility for a species of exotic birds if the Secretary finds each of the following:

(1) The facility has demonstrated the capability of producing captive bred birds of the species in the numbers to be imported into the United States from that facility.

(2) The facility is operated in a manner that is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

(3) The facility is operated in a humane manner.

(4) The appropriate governmental authority of the country in which the facility is located has certified in writing, and the Secretary is satisfied, that the facility has the capability of breeding the species in captivity.

(5) The country in which the facility is located is a Party to the Convention.

(6) All birds exported from the facility are bred at the facility.

(Pub. L. 102-440, title I, §107, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2228.)

§ 4907. Moratoria for species not covered by Convention

(a) In general

The Secretary shall—

(1) review periodically the trade in species of exotic birds that are not listed in any Appendix to the Convention; and

(2) after notice and an opportunity for public comment, establish a moratorium or quota on—

(A) importation of any species of exotic birds from one or more countries of origin for the species, if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the findings described in section 4905(c)(2), (3), and (4) of this title cannot be made with respect to the species; and

(ii) the moratorium or quota is necessary for the conservation of the species or is otherwise consistent with the purpose of this chapter; or

(B) the importation of all species of exotic birds from a particular country, if—

(i) the country has not developed and implemented a management program for ex-

otic birds in trade generally, that ensures both the conservation and the humane treatment of exotic birds during capture, transport, and maintenance; and

(ii) the Secretary finds that the moratorium or quota is necessary for the conservation of the species or is otherwise consistent with the purpose of this chapter.

(b) Termination of quota or moratorium

The Secretary shall terminate a quota or moratorium established under subsection (a) of this section if the Secretary finds that the reasons for establishing the quota or moratorium no longer exist.

(Pub. L. 102-440, title I, §108, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2229.)

§ 4908. Call for information

Within one month after October 23, 1992, the Secretary shall issue a call for information on the wild bird conservation program of each country that exports exotic birds, by—

(1) publishing a notice in the Federal Register requesting submission of such information to the Secretary by all interested persons; and

(2) submitting a written request for such information through the Secretary of State to each country that exports exotic birds.

(Pub. L. 102-440, title I, §109, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2229.)

§ 4909. Petitions

(a) In general

Any person may at any time submit to the Secretary a petition in writing requesting that the Secretary exercise authority of the Secretary under this chapter to—

(1) establish, modify, or terminate any prohibition, suspension, or quota under this chapter on importation of any species of exotic bird;

(2) add a species of exotic bird to, or remove such a species from, a list under section 4905 of this title; or

(3) determine under section 4906 of this title whether an exotic bird breeding facility is a qualifying facility.

(b) Consideration and ruling

For each petition submitted to the Secretary in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) within 90 days after receiving the petition, issue and publish in the Federal Register a preliminary ruling regarding whether the petition presents sufficient information indicating that the action requested in the petition might be warranted; and

(2) for each petition determined to present such sufficient information—

(A) provide an opportunity for the submission of public comment on the petition; and

(B) issue and publish in the Federal Register a final ruling on the petition, by not later than 90 days after the end of the period for public comment.

(Pub. L. 102-440, title I, §110, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2229.)

§ 4910. Prohibited acts**(a) Prohibitions****(1) In general**

Subject to paragraph (2), it is unlawful for any person to—

(A) import any exotic bird in violation of any prohibition, suspension, or quota on importation under section 4904 or 4907 of this title;

(B) import an exotic bird of a species that pursuant to section 4905(a)(2)(B) of this title is included in a list under section 4905 of this title, if the bird was not captive bred at a qualifying facility; or

(C) violate any regulation promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to authority provided by this chapter.

(2) Limitation

Paragraph (1)(A) and (B) does not apply to importations made incident to the transit of exotic birds through the United States to foreign countries if the applicable requirements of the Convention have been satisfied with respect to the trade in those exotic birds.

(b) Burden of proof for exemptions

Any person claiming the benefit of any exemption or permit under this chapter shall have the burden of proving that the exemption or permit is applicable or has been granted, and was valid and in force at the time of the alleged violation. (Pub. L. 102-440, title I, § 111, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2230.)

§ 4911. Exemptions

Notwithstanding any prohibition, suspension, or quota under this chapter on the importation of a species of exotic bird, the Secretary may, through the issuance of import permits, authorize the importation of a bird of the species if the Secretary determines that such importation is not detrimental to the survival of the species and the bird is being imported exclusively for any of the following purposes:

(1) Scientific research.

(2) As a personally owned pet of an individual who is returning to the United States after being continuously out of the country for a minimum of one year, except that an individual may not import more than 2 exotic birds under this paragraph in any year.

(3) Zoological breeding or display programs.

(4) Cooperative breeding programs that are—

(A) designed to promote the conservation of the species and maintain the species in the wild by enhancing the propagation and survival of the species; and

(B) developed and administered by, or in conjunction with, an avicultural, conservation, or zoological organization that meets standards developed by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 102-440, title I, § 112, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2230.)

§ 4912. Penalties and regulations**(a) Penalties****(1) Civil penalties**

(A) Any person who knowingly violates, and any person engaged in business as an importer

of exotic birds who violates, section 4910(a)(1) or (2)¹ of this title or any permit issued under section 4911 of this title may be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than \$25,000 for each violation.

(B) Any person who knowingly violates, and any person engaged in business as an importer of exotic birds who violates, section 4910(a)(3)² of this title may be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than \$12,000 for each such violation.

(C) Any person who otherwise violates section 4910(a) of this title or any permit issued under section 4911 of this title may be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than \$500 for each such violation.

(D) A civil penalty under this section shall be assessed, and may be collected, in the manner in which a civil penalty under the Act of December 28, 1973 (Public Law 93-205) [16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.], may be assessed and collected under section 111(a)³ of that Act [16 U.S.C. 1540(a)].

(2) Criminal penalties

(A) Any person who knowingly violates, and any person engaged in business as an importer of exotic birds who violates, section 4910(a)(1) or (2)¹ of this title or any permit issued under section 4911 of this title shall be fined under title 18 or imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both.

(B) Any person who knowingly violates section 4910(a)(3)² of this title shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.

(b) District court jurisdiction

The several district courts of the United States, including the courts enumerated in section 460 of title 28, shall have jurisdiction over any action arising under this chapter. For the purposes of this chapter, American Samoa shall be included in the Judicial District of the District Court of the United States for the District of Hawaii, and the Trust Territory of Palau and the Northern Marianas shall be included in the Judicial District of the District Court of the United States for the District of Guam.

(c) Other enforcement

The importation of an exotic bird is deemed to be transportation of wildlife for purposes of section 3(a) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3372(a)).

(d) Regulations

The Secretary shall prescribe regulations that are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(e) Savings provisions

The authority of the Secretary under this chapter is in addition to and shall not affect the authority of the Secretary under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or diminish the authority of the Secretary under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C.

¹ So in original. Probably should be section “4910(a)(1)(A) or (B)”.

² So in original. Probably should be section “4910(a)(1)(C)”.

³ So in original. Probably should be section “11(a)”.