

# Senate Game and Fisheries Committee

## Senator Richard Alloway II

### Chairman



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### **BILL SUMMARY**

**Senate Bill 1200, Printer's No. 1605**

**Prime Sponsor: Alloway**

#### **SYNOPSIS:**

This legislation is an Act mandating that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

#### **BILL ANALYSIS:**

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact Act and provides the Governor of Pennsylvania, on behalf of this State, authorization to execute a compact with any one or more of the states of the United States and the General Assembly hereby signifies in advance its approval and ratification of such compact. This legislation will mandate that Pennsylvania join as a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact.

This legislation states that Wildlife resources are valuable without regard to political boundaries; therefore, every person should be required to comply with wildlife preservation, protection, management and restoration statutes, rules, regulations and ordinances of the participating states as a condition precedent to the continuance or issuance of any license to hunt, trap, fish or otherwise possess wildlife. The violation of wildlife laws interferes with the management of wildlife resources and may endanger the safety of people and property. The mobility of many wildlife law violators necessitates the maintenance of channels of communication among the participating states.

The Compact has been in existence since 1989 and is a joint agreement to recognize each member's state revocation of an individual's hunting, fishing, and trapping license privileges. When a person has their legally suspended in a Compact State, that suspension is recognized by all of the member states of the Compact.

If a Pennsylvania hunter has his privileges suspended in Wyoming, for example, membership on the compact means he will also be prevented from being licensed to hunt, fish, and trap in all of the member states, including this commonwealth. Also, under the compact, if a violator fails to comply with a fine issued in a member state, the issuing state can request the violator's home state to immediately suspend the violator's hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges in their state.

The Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact not only prevents chronic violators from simply moving their activity to another state, it also provides a deterrence that is more powerful than monetary fines and penalties.

Currently, 32 states are active members in the Compact. Only 18 states, including Pennsylvania, are not members.

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact member states include:

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

**EXISTING LAW:**

No existing law

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This act shall take effect immediately.