

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1889

By: Richardson

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to game and fish; enacting the  
8 Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact; listing  
9 findings; stating the policy of participating state;  
10 stating the purpose of the compact; providing  
11 definitions; providing procedures for issuing a  
12 citation by a participating state; making personal  
13 recognizance acceptable; requiring certain report to  
14 the issuing state; providing for transmission of  
15 certain information to the home state upon conviction  
16 or noncompliance; requiring the home state to notify  
17 a violator; authorizing the home state to initiate a  
18 license suspension action; requiring due process  
19 safeguards; authorizing the home state to enter a  
20 conviction in the records; requiring home state to  
21 maintain certain records and make certain reports;  
22 providing for reciprocal recognition of a suspension  
23 by all participating states; requiring communications  
24 of suspension information in certain form and  
content; limiting application of the compact on other  
law; providing for the establishment of a board of  
compact administrators; providing for composition of  
the board; providing for appointment of a state  
compact administrator; specifying duties of the  
board; providing for donation to the board;  
authorizing the board to contract for services;  
directing the board to formulate procedures and  
forms; providing procedures for entry into and  
withdrawal from the compact; providing procedures for  
amendments to the compact; requiring liberal  
construction of the compact; providing for  
severability; requiring the Department of Wildlife  
Conservation to enforce the compact; authorizing the  
Director of the Department of Wildlife Conservation  
to enter or withdraw from the compact and adopt  
amendments; directing the Department to make a

1 certain determination regarding the suspension of  
2 hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges of certain  
3 persons; authorizing the Department to recognize the  
4 conviction of an issuing state; requiring certain  
5 notice; establishing penalty for failure to comply  
6 with suspension notice; allowing a request for a  
7 hearing; specifying procedures for a hearing;  
8 providing for certain action by the Department;  
9 providing for codification; and providing an  
10 effective date.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

12 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 10-101 of Title 29, unless there  
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact is hereby enacted into  
16 law and entered into with all jurisdictions legally joining therein,  
17 in the form substantially as follows:

18 ARTICLE 1. FINDINGS, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND PURPOSE

19 A. The participating states find that the following provisions  
20 apply:

21 1. Wildlife resources are managed in trust by the respective  
22 states for the benefit of all residents and visitors;

23 2. The protection of the wildlife resources of a state is  
24 materially affected by the degree of compliance with state statutes,  
laws, ordinances, regulations, and administrative rules relating to  
the management of such resources;

1        3. The preservation, protection, management, and restoration of  
2 wildlife contributes immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational,  
3 and economic aspects of such natural resources;

4        4. Wildlife resources are valuable without regard to political  
5 boundaries; therefore, every person should be required to comply  
6 with wildlife preservation, protection, management and restoration  
7 laws, ordinances, regulations, and administrative rules of the  
8 participating states as a condition precedent to the continuance or  
9 issuance of any license to hunt, fish, trap, or possess wildlife;

10       5. Violation of wildlife laws interferes with the management of  
11 wildlife resources and may endanger the safety of persons and  
12 property;

13       6. The mobility of many wildlife law violators necessitates the  
14 maintenance of channels of communication among the various states;

15       7. In most instances, a person who is cited for a wildlife  
16 violation in a state other than that person's own state:

17           a. is required to post collateral or a bond to secure  
18           appearance for a trial at a later date,

19           b. is taken into custody until the collateral or bond is  
20           posted, or

21           c. is taken directly to court for an immediate  
22           appearance;

23       8. The purpose of the enforcement practices set forth in  
24 paragraph 7 of this subsection is to ensure compliance with the

1 terms of a wildlife citation by the cited person who, if permitted  
2 to proceed after receiving the citation, could return to the home  
3 state of the person and disregard their duty under the terms of the  
4 citation;

5 9. In most instances, a person receiving a wildlife citation in  
6 the home state of the person is permitted to accept the citation  
7 from the officer at the scene of the violation and immediately  
8 proceed after agreeing or being instructed to comply with the terms  
9 of the citation;

10 10. The practices described in paragraph 7 of this subsection  
11 cause unnecessary inconvenience and, at times, a hardship for the  
12 person who is unable at the time to post collateral, furnish a bond,  
13 stand trial, or pay a fine and is thus compelled to remain in  
14 custody until some alternative arrangement is made; and

15 11. The enforcement practices described in paragraph 7 of this  
16 subsection consume an undue amount of law enforcement time.

17 B. It is the policy of the participating states to:

18 1. Promote compliance with the statutes, laws, ordinances,  
19 regulations, and administrative rules relating to management of  
20 wildlife resources in their respective states;

21 2. Recognize the suspension of wildlife license privileges of  
22 any person whose license privileges have been suspended by a  
23 participating state and may treat the suspension as if it had  
24 occurred in their state;

1           3. Allow a violator, except as provided in subsection B of  
2 Article 3 of this compact, to accept a wildlife citation and proceed  
3 without delay, whether or not a resident of the state in which the  
4 citation was issued, provided that the home state of the violator is  
5 party to this compact;

6           4. Report to the appropriate participating state, as provided  
7 in the compact manual, any conviction recorded against any person  
8 whose home state was not the issuing state;

9           5. Allow the home state to recognize and treat convictions  
10 recorded against its residents, which convictions occurred in a  
11 participating state, as though they occurred in the home state;

12           6. Extend cooperation to its fullest extent among the  
13 participating states for enforcing compliance with the terms of a  
14 wildlife citation issued in one participating state to a resident of  
15 another participating state;

16           7. Maximize effective use of law enforcement personnel and  
17 information; and

18           8. Assist court systems in the efficient disposition of  
19 wildlife violations.

20           C. The purpose of this compact is to:

21           1. Provide a means through which participating states may join  
22 in a reciprocal program to effectuate the policies enumerated in  
23 subsection B of this article in a uniform and orderly manner; and  
24



1 bail, bond, or other security deposited to secure appearance by a  
2 person charged with having committed any such offense, the payment  
3 of a penalty assessment, a plea of nolo contendere, and the  
4 imposition of a deferred or suspended sentence by the court;

5 5. "Court" means a court of law, including magistrate's court  
6 and the justice of the peace court;

7 6. "Home state" means the state of primary residence of a  
8 person;

9 7. "Issuing state" means the participating state which issues a  
10 wildlife citation to the violator;

11 8. "License" means any license, permit, or other public  
12 document that conveys to the person to whom it was issued the  
13 privilege of pursuing, possessing, or taking any wildlife regulated  
14 by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule of a  
15 participating state;

16 9. "Licensing authority" means the commission, department or  
17 division within each participating state that is authorized by law  
18 to issue or approve licenses or permits to hunt, fish, trap, or  
19 possess wildlife;

20 10. "Participating state" means any state that enacts  
21 legislation to become a member of this wildlife compact;

22 11. "Personal recognizance" means an agreement by a person made  
23 at the time of issuance of the wildlife citation that the person  
24 will comply with the terms of the citation;

1 12. "State" means any state, territory, or possession of the  
2 United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto  
3 Rico, the provinces of Canada, and other countries;

4 13. "Suspension" means any revocation, denial, or withdrawal of  
5 any or all license privileges, including the privilege to apply for,  
6 purchase, or exercise the benefits conferred by any license;

7 14. "Terms of the citation" means those conditions and options  
8 expressly stated in the citation;

9 15. "Wildlife" means all species of animals including mammals,  
10 birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans, which  
11 are defined as "wildlife" and are protected or otherwise regulated  
12 by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule in a  
13 participating state. Species included in the definition of  
14 "wildlife" for purposes of this compact are based on state or local  
15 law;

16 16. "Wildlife law" means any statute, law, regulation,  
17 ordinance, or administrative rule developed and enacted for the  
18 management of wildlife resources and the uses thereof;

19 17. "Wildlife officer" means any individual authorized by a  
20 participating state to issue a citation for a wildlife violation;  
21 and

22 18. "Wildlife violation" means any cited violation of a  
23 statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule  
24

1 developed and enacted for the management of wildlife resources and  
2 the uses thereof.

3 ARTICLE 3. PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING STATE

4 A. When issuing a citation for a wildlife violation, a wildlife  
5 officer shall issue a citation to any person whose primary residence  
6 is in a participating state in the same manner as though the person  
7 were a resident of the issuing state and may not require the person  
8 to post collateral to secure appearance, subject to the exceptions  
9 noted in subsection B of this article, if the officer receives the  
10 recognizance of the person that the person will comply with the  
11 terms of the citation.

12 B. Personal recognizance is acceptable if:

13 1. Not prohibited by state or local law or the compact manual;  
14 and

15 2. The violator provides adequate proof of identification to  
16 the wildlife officer.

17 C. Upon conviction or failure of a person to comply with the  
18 terms of a wildlife citation, the appropriate official shall report  
19 the conviction or failure to comply to the licensing authority of  
20 the participating state in which the wildlife citation was issued.  
21 The report must be made in accordance with procedures specified by  
22 the issuing state and must contain information as specified in the  
23 compact manual as minimum requirements for effective processing by  
24 the home state.

1 D. Upon receipt of the report of conviction or noncompliance  
2 pursuant to subsection C of this article, the licensing authority of  
3 the issuing state shall transmit to the licensing authority of the  
4 home state of the violator the information in form and content as  
5 prescribed in the compact manual.

6 ARTICLE 4. PROCEDURE FOR HOME STATE

7 A. Upon receipt of a report from the licensing authority of the  
8 issuing state reporting the failure of a violator to comply with the  
9 terms of a citation, the licensing authority of the home state shall  
10 notify the violator and may initiate a suspension action in  
11 accordance with the suspension procedures of the home state and may  
12 suspend the license privileges of the violator until satisfactory  
13 evidence of compliance with the terms of the wildlife citation has  
14 been furnished by the issuing state to the home state licensing  
15 authority. Due process safeguards will be accorded.

16 B. Upon receipt of a report of conviction from the licensing  
17 authority of the issuing state, the licensing authority of the home  
18 state may enter the conviction in its records and may treat the  
19 conviction as though it occurred in the home state for the purposes  
20 of the suspension of license privileges if the violation resulting  
21 in a suspension could have been the basis for suspension of license  
22 privileges in the home state.

1 C. The licensing authority of the home state shall maintain a  
2 record of actions taken and shall make reports to issuing states as  
3 provided in the compact manual.

4 ARTICLE 5. RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF SUSPENSION

5 A. All participating states may recognize the suspension of  
6 license privileges of any person by any participating state as  
7 though the violation resulting in the suspension had occurred in  
8 their state and could have been the basis for suspension of license  
9 privileges in their state.

10 B. Each participating state shall communicate suspension  
11 information to other participating states in form and content as  
12 contained in the compact manual.

13 ARTICLE 6. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS

14 Except as expressly required by this compact, nothing herein may  
15 be construed to affect the right of any participating state to apply  
16 any of its laws relating to license privileges to any person or  
17 circumstance or to invalidate or prevent any agreement or other  
18 cooperative arrangement between a participating state and a  
19 nonparticipating state concerning wildlife law enforcement.

20 ARTICLE 7. COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR - PROCEDURES

21 A. For the purposes of administering this compact and to serve  
22 as a governing body for the resolution of all matters relating to  
23 the operation of this compact, a board of compact administrators is  
24 established. The board is composed of one representative from each

1 of the participating states to be known as the compact  
2 administrator. The compact administrator must be appointed by the  
3 head of the licensing authority of each participating state and  
4 serves and is subject to removal in accordance with the laws of the  
5 state the compact administrator represents. A compact administrator  
6 may provide for the discharge of duties and the performance of  
7 functions as a board member by an alternate. An alternate is not  
8 entitled to serve unless written notification of the identity of the  
9 alternate has been given to the board.

10 B. Each member of the board of compact administrators is  
11 entitled to one vote. No action of the board is binding unless  
12 taken at a meeting at which a majority of the total number of the  
13 votes by the board are cast in favor thereof. Action by the board  
14 may be only at a meeting at which a majority of the participating  
15 states is represented.

16 C. The board shall elect annually from its membership a  
17 presiding officer and a vice presiding officer.

18 D. The board shall adopt bylaws not inconsistent with the  
19 provisions of this compact or the laws of a participating state for  
20 the conduct of its business and may amend and rescind its bylaws.

21 E. The board may accept for any of its purposes and functions  
22 under this compact any and all donations and grants of money,  
23 equipment, supplies, materials, and services, conditional or

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1 otherwise, from any state, the United States, or any governmental  
2 agency, and receive, utilize, and dispose of the same.

3 F. The board may contract with, or accept services or personnel  
4 from, any governmental or intergovernmental agency, individual,  
5 firm, or corporation, or any private nonprofit organization or  
6 institution.

7 G. The board shall formulate all necessary procedures and  
8 develop uniform forms and documents for administering the provisions  
9 of this compact. All procedures and forms adopted pursuant to board  
10 action must be contained in a compact manual.

11 ARTICLE 8. ENTRY INTO COMPACT AND WITHDRAWAL

12 A. This compact becomes effective at such time as it is adopted  
13 in a substantially similar form by two or more states.

14 B. 1. Entry into the compact must be made by resolution of  
15 ratification executed by the authorized officials of the applying  
16 state and submitted to the presiding officer of the board.

17 2. The resolution must substantially be in the form and content  
18 as provided in the compact manual and must include the following:

19 a. a citation of the authority from which the state is  
20 empowered to become a party to this compact,

21 b. an agreement of compliance with the terms and  
22 provisions of this compact, and  
23  
24

1 c. an agreement that compact entry is with all states  
2 participating in the compact and with all additional  
3 states legally becoming a party to the compact.

4 3. The effective date of entry must be specified by the  
5 applying state but may not be less than sixty (60) days after notice  
6 has been given by the:

7 a. presiding officer of the board of the compact  
8 administrators, or

9 b. secretariat of the board to each participating state  
10 that the resolution from the applying state has been  
11 received.

12 C. A participating state may withdraw from participation in  
13 this compact by official written notice to each participating state,  
14 but withdrawal does not become effective until ninety (90) days  
15 after the notice of withdrawal is given. The notice must be  
16 directed to the compact administrator of each member state.  
17 Withdrawal of any state does not affect the validity of this compact  
18 as to the remaining participating states.

19 ARTICLE 9. AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPACT

20 A. This compact may be amended from time to time. Amendments  
21 must be presented in resolution form to the presiding officer of the  
22 board of the compact administrators and must be initiated by one or  
23 more participating states.  
24

1 B. Adoption of an amendment requires endorsement by all  
2 participating states and becomes effective thirty (30) days after  
3 the date of the last endorsement.

4 C. Failure of a participating state to respond to the compact  
5 presiding officer within one hundred twenty (120) days after receipt  
6 of a proposed amendment constitutes endorsement thereof.

7 ARTICLE 10. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

8 This compact must be liberally construed so as to effectuate the  
9 purposes stated herein. The provisions of this compact are  
10 severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this  
11 compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any  
12 participating state or the United States, or the applicability  
13 thereof to any government, agency, individual, or circumstance is  
14 held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the compact is not  
15 affected thereby. If this compact is held contrary to the  
16 constitution of any participating state, the compact remains in full  
17 force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and  
18 effect as to the participating state affected as to all severable  
19 matters.

20 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 10-102 of Title 29, unless there  
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. The Department of Wildlife Conservation shall enforce the  
24 Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact as set forth in Section 1 of

1 this act and shall do all things within the jurisdiction of the  
2 Department that are appropriate in order to effectuate the purposes  
3 and the intent of the compact.

4 B. The Director of the Department of Wildlife Conservation is  
5 authorized on behalf of the state to enter or withdraw from the  
6 Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact pursuant to the terms of  
7 Article 8 of the compact.

8 C. The Director is authorized to adopt amendments to the  
9 Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact pursuant to the terms of  
10 Article 9 of the compact.

11 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 10-103 of Title 29, unless there  
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. When the Department of Wildlife Conservation receives notice  
15 of the suspension of the hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges of  
16 a person by a participating issuing state as set forth in the  
17 Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, the Department shall determine  
18 whether the violation leading to the suspension could have led to  
19 the forfeiture of privileges under the law of this state. If the  
20 Department determines that the privileges of the person could have  
21 been forfeited, the Department may suspend the privileges to hunt,  
22 trap, or fish in this state of the person for the same period as  
23 imposed by the participating state not to exceed the maximum limits  
24 allowed by state law.

1        B. When the Department receives notice of a conviction of a  
2 state resident from the licensing authority of the participating  
3 issuing state, the Department may treat the conviction as if it had  
4 occurred in this state and shall determine whether the conviction  
5 could have led to the forfeiture of the hunting, trapping, or  
6 fishing privileges of the resident under state law. If the  
7 Department determines that the privileges of the resident could have  
8 been forfeited, the Department may suspend the privileges of the  
9 resident to hunt, trap, or fish in this state for the same period as  
10 the issuing state, not to exceed the limit that could have been  
11 imposed under state law.

12        C. Notice of the suspension shall be sent to the person, who  
13 shall surrender any current Oklahoma hunting, trapping, or fishing  
14 licenses to the Department within ten (10) days.

15        D. A person whose privileges have been suspended and who hunts,  
16 traps, or fishes in this state, who applies for or purchases any  
17 licenses or permits to hunt, trap, or fish in this state, or who  
18 refuses to surrender any current hunting, trapping, or fishing  
19 licenses as required pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a  
20 misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than One  
21 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or more than Five Hundred Dollars  
22 (\$500.00).

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1 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 10-104 of Title 29, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Department of Wildlife Conservation may suspend the  
5 hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges of any resident of this  
6 state upon notification from the licensing authority of a  
7 participating state as set forth in the Interstate Wildlife Violator  
8 Compact, that the resident has failed to comply with the terms of a  
9 citation issued for a wildlife violation. The suspension remains in  
10 effect until the Department receives satisfactory evidence of  
11 compliance from the issuing state.

12 B. Notice of the suspension must be sent to the resident, who  
13 shall surrender all current Oklahoma hunting, trapping, or fishing  
14 licenses to the Department within ten (10) days.

15 C. A person who hunts, traps, or fishes, who applies for or  
16 purchases licenses or permits, or who refuses to surrender any  
17 current hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses in violation of this  
18 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a  
19 fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or more than  
20 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

21 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 10-105 of Title 29, unless there  
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1       A. Upon suspending the hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges  
2 of any person under Section 3 or Section 4 of this act, the  
3 Department of Wildlife Conservation shall immediately notify the  
4 person in writing. The person may, within twenty (20) days of the  
5 notice, request a hearing before the Department on whether the  
6 requirements for suspension have been met.

7       B. Upon request, the Department shall set a hearing as early as  
8 practicable. The requesting person may present evidence and  
9 arguments at the hearing contesting the suspension.

10       C. Following the hearing, the Department, through its  
11 authorized agent, may, based on the evidence, affirm, modify, or  
12 rescind the suspension of privileges.

13       SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

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