

**SENATE BILL NO. 2178**

Introduced by

Senators Lyson, O'Connell, Stenehjem

Representatives Carlisle, Drovdal, Rennerfeldt

1 A BILL for an Act to enter the interstate wildlife violator compact; and to provide a penalty.

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

3 **SECTION 1. Interstate wildlife violator compact.** The interstate wildlife violator  
4 compact is entered with all states legally joining the compact, in the form substantially as  
5 follows:

6 **ARTICLE 1. FINDINGS, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND PURPOSE**

7 1. The participating states find that the following provisions apply:

- 8 a. Wildlife resources are managed in trust by the respective states for the benefit  
9 of all residents and visitors.
- 10 b. The protection of the wildlife resources of a state is materially affected by the  
11 degree of compliance with state statutes, laws, ordinances, regulations, and  
12 administrative rules relating to the management of such resources.
- 13 c. The preservation, protection, management, and restoration of wildlife  
14 contributes immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational, and economic  
15 aspects of such natural resources.
- 16 d. Wildlife resources are valuable without regard to political boundaries;  
17 therefore, every person should be required to comply with wildlife  
18 preservation, protection, management and restoration laws, ordinances,  
19 regulations, and administrative rules of the participating states as a condition  
20 precedent to the continuance or issuance of any license to hunt, fish, trap, or  
21 possess wildlife.
- 22 e. Violation of wildlife laws interferes with the management of wildlife resources  
23 and may endanger the safety of persons and property.

- 1           f.    The mobility of many wildlife law violators necessitates the maintenance of  
2           channels of communication among the various states.
- 3           g.    In most instances, a person who is cited for a wildlife violation in a state other  
4           than that person's own state:
- 5                (1)   Is required to post collateral or a bond to secure appearance for a trial  
6                at a later date;
- 7                (2)   Is taken into custody until the collateral or bond is posted; or  
8                (3)   Is taken directly to court for an immediate appearance.
- 9           h.    The purpose of the enforcement practices set forth in subdivision g is to  
10           ensure compliance with the terms of a wildlife citation by the cited person  
11           who, if permitted to proceed after receiving the citation, could return to the  
12           person's home state and disregard the person's duty under the terms of the  
13           citation.
- 14           i.    In most instances, a person receiving a wildlife citation in that person's home  
15           state is permitted to accept the citation from the officer at the scene of the  
16           violation and immediately proceed after agreeing or being instructed to  
17           comply with the terms of the citation.
- 18           j.    The practices described in subdivision g cause unnecessary inconvenience  
19           and, at times, a hardship for the person who is unable at the time to post  
20           collateral, furnish a bond, stand trial, or pay a fine and is thus compelled to  
21           remain in custody until some alternative arrangement is made.
- 22           k.    The enforcement practices described in subdivision g consume an undue  
23           amount of law enforcement time.
- 24        2.    It is the policy of the participating states to:
- 25           a.    Promote compliance with the statutes, laws, ordinances, regulations, and  
26           administrative rules relating to management of wildlife resources in their  
27           respective states;
- 28           b.    Recognize the suspension of wildlife license privileges of any person whose  
29           license privileges have been suspended by a participating state and treat  
30           such suspension as if it had occurred in their state;

- 1 c. Allow a violator, except as provided in subsection 2 of article 3, to accept a  
2 wildlife citation and proceed without delay, whether or not a resident of the  
3 state in which the citation was issued, provided that the violator's home state  
4 is party to this compact;
- 5 d. Report to the appropriate participating state, as provided in the compact  
6 manual, any conviction recorded against any person whose home state was  
7 not the issuing state;
- 8 e. Allow the home state to recognize and treat convictions recorded against its  
9 residents, which convictions occurred in a participating state, as though they  
10 occurred in the home state;
- 11 f. Extend cooperation to its fullest extent among the participating states for  
12 enforcing compliance with the terms of a wildlife citation issued in one  
13 participating state to a resident of another participating state;
- 14 g. Maximize effective use of law enforcement personnel and information; and  
15 h. Assist court systems in the efficient disposition of wildlife violations.
- 16 3. The purpose of this compact is to:
- 17 a. Provide a means through which participating states may join in a reciprocal  
18 program to effectuate the policies enumerated in subsection 2 in a uniform  
19 and orderly manner; and
- 20 b. Provide for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators operating within  
21 participating states in recognition of the violator's right to due process and the  
22 sovereign status of a participating state.

## 23 ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS

24 As used in this compact and sections 2 through 5 of this Act, unless the context requires  
25 otherwise, the following definitions apply:

- 26 1. "Citation" means any summons, complaint, summons and complaint, ticket, penalty  
27 assessment, or other official document that is issued to a person by a wildlife  
28 officer or other peace officer for a wildlife violation and that contains an order  
29 requiring the person to respond.

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- 1           2. "Collateral" means any cash or other security deposited to secure an appearance  
2           for trial in connection with the issuance by a wildlife officer or other peace officer of  
3           a citation for a wildlife violation.
- 4           3. "Compliance" with respect to a citation means the act of answering a citation  
5           through an appearance in a court or tribunal, or through the payment of fines,  
6           costs, and surcharges, if any.
- 7           4. "Conviction" means a conviction, including any court conviction, for any offense  
8           that is related to the preservation, protection, management, or restoration of wildlife  
9           and that is prohibited by state statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative  
10          rule. The term also includes the forfeiture of any bail, bond, or other security  
11          deposited to secure appearance by a person charged with having committed any  
12          such offense, the payment of a penalty assessment, a plea of nolo contendere,  
13          and the imposition of a deferred or suspended sentence by the court.
- 14          5. "Court" means a court of law, including magistrate's court and the justice of the  
15          peace court.
- 16          6. "Home state" means the state of primary residence of a person.
- 17          7. "Issuing state" means the participating state which issues a wildlife citation to the  
18          violation.
- 19          8. "License" means any license, permit, or other public document that conveys to the  
20          person to whom it was issued the privilege of pursuing, possessing, or taking any  
21          wildlife regulated by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule of a  
22          participating state.
- 23          9. "Licensing authority" means the department or division within each participating  
24          state that is authorized by law to issue or approve licenses or permits to hunt, fish,  
25          trap, or possess wildlife.
- 26          10. "Participating state" means any state that enacts legislation to become a member  
27          of this wildlife compact.
- 28          11. "Personal recognizance" means an agreement by a person made at the time of  
29          issuance of the wildlife citation that such person will comply with the terms of the  
30          citation.

- 1           12. "State" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of  
2                   Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the provinces of Canada, and other  
3                   countries.
- 4           13. "Suspension" means any revocation, denial, or withdrawal of any or all license  
5                   privileges, including the privilege to apply for, purchase, or exercise the benefits  
6                   conferred by any license.
- 7           14. "Terms of the citation" means those conditions and options expressly stated in the  
8                   citation.
- 9           15. "Wildlife" means all species of animals including mammals, birds, fish, reptiles,  
10                   amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans, which are defined as "wildlife" and are  
11                   protected or otherwise regulated by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or  
12                   administrative rule in a participating state. Species included in the definition of  
13                   "wildlife" for purposes of this compact are based on state or local law.
- 14          16. "Wildlife law" means any statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule  
15                   developed and enacted for the management of wildlife resources and the uses  
16                   thereof.
- 17          17. "Wildlife officer" means any individual authorized by a participating state to issue a  
18                   citation for a wildlife violation.
- 19          18. "Wildlife violation" means any cited violation of a statute, law, regulation,  
20                   ordinance, or administrative rule developed and enacted for the management of  
21                   wildlife resources and the uses thereof.

22                                   ARTICLE 3. PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING STATE

- 23          1. When issuing a citation for a wildlife violation, a wildlife officer shall issue a citation  
24                   to any person whose primary residence is in a participating state in the same  
25                   manner as though the person were a resident of the issuing state and may not  
26                   require such person to post collateral to secure appearance, subject to the  
27                   exceptions noted in subsection 2, if the officer receives the recognizance of such  
28                   person that the person will comply with the terms of the citation.
- 29          2. Personal recognizance is acceptable:
- 30              a. If not prohibited by state or local law or the compact manual; and
- 31              b. If the violator provides adequate proof of identification to the wildlife officer.

- 1           3. Upon conviction or failure of a person to comply with the terms of a wildlife citation,  
2           the appropriate official shall report the conviction or failure to comply to the  
3           licensing authority of the participating state in which the wildlife citation was issued.  
4           The report must be made in accordance with procedures specified by the issuing  
5           state and must contain information as specified in the compact manual as  
6           minimum requirements for effective processing by the home state.
- 7           4. Upon receipt of the report of conviction or noncompliance pursuant to subsection 3,  
8           the licensing authority of the issuing state shall transmit to the licensing authority of  
9           the home state of the violator the information in form and content as prescribed in  
10          the compact manual.

11                                   ARTICLE 4. PROCEDURE FOR HOME STATE

- 12          1. Upon receipt of a report from the licensing authority of the issuing state reporting  
13          the failure of a violator to comply with the terms of a citation, the licensing authority  
14          of the home state shall notify the violator and shall initiate a suspension action in  
15          accordance with the home state's suspension procedures and shall suspend the  
16          violator's license privileges until satisfactory evidence of compliance with the terms  
17          of the wildlife citation has been furnished by the issuing state to the home state  
18          licensing authority. Due process safeguards will be accorded.
- 19          2. Upon receipt of a report of conviction from the licensing authority of the issuing  
20          state, the licensing authority of the home state shall enter such conviction in its  
21          records and shall treat such conviction as though it occurred in the home state for  
22          the purposes of the suspension of license privileges.
- 23          3. The licensing authority of the home state shall maintain a record of actions taken  
24          and shall make reports to issuing states as provided in the compact manual.

25                                   ARTICLE 5. RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF SUSPENSION

- 26          1. All participating states shall recognize the suspension of license privileges of any  
27          person by any participating state as though the violation resulting in the suspension  
28          had occurred in their state and could have been the basis for suspension of license  
29          privileges in their state.
- 30          2. Each participating state shall communicate suspension information to other  
31          participating states in form and content as contained in the compact manual.



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

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

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

9 ARTICLE 8. ENTRY INTO COMPACT AND WITHDRAWAL

10 1. This compact becomes effective at such time as it is adopted in a substantially  
11 similar form by two or more states.

12 2. a. Entry into the compact must be made by resolution of ratification executed by  
13 the authorized officials of the applying state and submitted to the presiding  
14 officer of the board.

15 b. The resolution must substantially be in the form and content as provided in  
16 the compact manual and must include the following:

17 (1) A citation of the authority from which the state is empowered to become  
18 a party to this compact;

19 (2) An agreement of compliance with the terms and provisions of this  
20 compact; and

21 (3) An agreement that compact entry is with all states participating in the  
22 compact and with all additional states legally becoming a party to the  
23 compact.

24 c. The effective date of entry must be specified by the applying state but may not  
25 be less than sixty days after notice has been given:

26 (1) By the presiding officer of the board of the compact administrators; or

27 (2) By the secretariat of the board to each participating state that the  
28 resolution from the applying state has been received.

29 3. A participating state may withdraw from participation in this compact by official  
30 written notice to each participating state, but withdrawal does not become effective  
31 until ninety days after the notice of withdrawal is given. The notice must be



1 directed to the compact administrator of each member state. Withdrawal of any  
2 state does not affect the validity of this compact as to the remaining participating  
3 states.

#### 4 ARTICLE 9. AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPACT

- 5 1. This compact may be amended from time to time. Amendments must be  
6 presented in resolution form to the presiding officer of the board of the compact  
7 administrators and must be initiated by one or more participating states.  
8 2. Adoption of an amendment requires endorsement by all participating states and  
9 becomes effective thirty days after the date of the last endorsement.  
10 3. Failure of a participating state to respond to the compact presiding officer within  
11 one hundred twenty days after receipt of a proposed amendment constitutes  
12 endorsement thereof.

#### 13 ARTICLE 10. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

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

#### 22 **SECTION 2. Department authorization to effect purposes of compact.**

- 23 1. The department shall enforce the interstate wildlife violator compact and shall do  
24 all things within the department's jurisdiction that are appropriate in order to  
25 effectuate the purposes and the intent of the compact.  
26 2. The department is authorized on behalf of the state to enter or withdraw from the  
27 interstate wildlife violator compact pursuant to the terms of article 8 of the compact.  
28 3. The department is authorized to adopt amendments to the interstate wildlife  
29 violator compact pursuant to the terms of article 9 of the compact.

30 **SECTION 3. Reciprocal recognition of license suspensions - Suspension of**  
31 **privileges for conviction in participating state - Penalty.**

- 1           1.    When the department receives notice of the suspension of a person's hunting,  
2                   trapping, or fishing privileges by a participating state, the department shall  
3                   determine whether the violation leading to the suspension could have led to the  
4                   forfeiture of privileges under this state's law.  If the department determines that the  
5                   person's privileges could have been forfeited, the department shall suspend the  
6                   person's privileges to hunt, trap, or fish in this state for the same period as imposed  
7                   by the participating state or for the minimum period that would have been imposed  
8                   under this state's law, whichever period is longer.
- 9           2.    When the department receives notice of a conviction of a state resident from the  
10                   licensing authority of the issuing state, the department shall treat the conviction as  
11                   if it had occurred in this state and shall determine whether the conviction could  
12                   have led to the forfeiture of the resident's hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges  
13                   under state law.  If the department determines that the resident's privileges could  
14                   have been forfeited, the department shall suspend the resident's privileges to hunt,  
15                   trap, or fish in this state for the minimum period that would have been imposed  
16                   under state law.
- 17           3.    Notice of the suspension must be sent to the person, who must surrender any  
18                   current North Dakota hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses to the department within  
19                   ten days.
- 20           4.    A person whose privileges have been suspended and who hunts, traps, or fishes in  
21                   this state, who applies for or purchases any licenses or permits to hunt, trap, or fish  
22                   in this state, or who refuses to surrender any current hunting, trapping, or fishing  
23                   licenses as required is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

24           **SECTION 4. Suspension of privileges for failure to comply with citation issued in**  
25 **participating state - Penalty.**

- 26           1.    The department shall suspend the hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges of any  
27                   resident of this state upon notification from the licensing authority of an issuing  
28                   state that the resident has failed to comply with the terms of a citation issued for a  
29                   wildlife violation.  The suspension remains in effect until the department receives  
30                   satisfactory evidence of compliance from the issuing state.

- 1           2.    Notice of the suspension must be sent to the resident, who shall surrender all  
2                    current North Dakota hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses to the department within  
3                    ten days.
- 4           3.    A person who hunts, traps, or fishes, who applies for or purchases licenses or  
5                    permits, or who refuses to surrender any current hunting, trapping, or fishing  
6                    license in violation of this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

7           **SECTION 5. Hearing on suspension.**

- 8           1.    Upon suspending the hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges of any person under  
9                    section 3 or 4 of this Act, the department shall immediately notify the person in  
10                   writing. The person may, within twenty days of the notice, request a hearing before  
11                   the department on whether the requirements for suspension have been met. The  
12                   hearing must be informal.
- 13           2.    Upon request, the department shall set a hearing as early as practicable.
- 14           3.    a.    The requesting person may present evidence and arguments at the hearing  
15                    contesting whether:
  - 16                           (1)   A participating state suspended the person's privileges;
  - 17                           (2)   There was a conviction in the participating state;
  - 18                           (3)   The person failed to comply with the terms of a citation issued for a  
19                           wildlife violation in a participating state; or
  - 20                           (4)   A conviction in a participating state could have led to the forfeiture of  
21                           privileges under North Dakota law.
- 22                    b.    Grounds other than those listed in subdivision a may not be used to contest  
23                    the department's decision to suspend the person's privileges.
- 24           4.    At the hearing, the department, through its authorized agent, may:
  - 25                    a.    Administer oaths;
  - 26                    b.    Issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses; and
  - 27                    c.    Admit all relevant evidence and documents, including notifications from  
28                    participating states.
- 29           5.    Following the hearing, the department, through its authorized agent, may, based  
30                    on the evidence, affirm, modify, or rescind the suspension of privileges.