

HB

267

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: CSHB 267(RES)
(H) Publish Date: 2/8/08

Identifier (file name): HB267CS(RES)-DFG-DWC-02-08-08 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
Title: Wildlife Violator Compact RDU: Wildlife Conservation
Component: Wildlife Conservation
Sponsor: Representative Johnson
Requester: House Finance Committee Component Number: 473

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required		Information				
	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Contractual							
Supplies							
Equipment							
Land & Structures							
Grants & Claims							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other Interagency Receipts							
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this bill will not have any fiscal impact on the Department of Fish and Game.

Prepared by: Doug Larsen, Director
Division: Wildlife Conservation
Approved by: Denby Lloyd, Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4191
Date/Time: 2/8/08 3:00 PM
Date: 2/8/2008

Ostnes

2/19/08

The wildlife violator compact is patterned after the driver's license compact which all other states have entered into. If a person's driver's license is revoked in one state in the United States, that person cannot go to another state and get a driver's license. The compact started in 1985 between Nevada and Colorado. In 1989, the three states of Nevada, Colorado, and Oregon passed legislation and the program began in those states in 1991. Immediately afterward, many states recognized that this would be a very valuable tool to deter serious wildlife violators everywhere in the nation.

In the Alaska example, a group of poachers from Alabama killed 11 illegal caribou and entirely wasted the meat of nine. The problem is that poachers like these can immediately move to another state. For instance, despite being jailed and fined in Alaska, the Alabama poachers were able to return to their state and obtain licenses for the fall Alabama hunting season. The biggest reason for the compact is to stop the inter-state travel of

9 pages
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note

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serious poachers, he said. Had Alaska been a member of the compact, the hunting licenses of these caribou poachers would have been revoked in the 26 compact member states instead of only in Alaska.

The compact's foundation has tremendous value for three reasons. **First** and foremost, it prevents poachers revoked in one member state from hunting or fishing, depending on which activity was violated, in any of the other member states. **Second**, the compact provides for the issuance of citations to nonresidents versus having to arrest them. This is a big issue in Alaska and many other states because in order to prevent a violator from fleeing across state lines to avoid the consequences of the citation, the wildlife authorities must stop their field patrol, place the violator under arrest, and immediately take the violator before a magistrate. **Third**, the compact provides a tremendous deterrent for serious fish and wildlife crimes. People who know that Alaska is a member of the compact would think twice before

coming up to illegally harvest game, for selling the parts or conducting other illegal activities.

The current provisions of the Wildlife Violator Compact

- 1) Anyone revoked in one compact state can be revoked in all other compact states if the conviction is a basis for revocation in that state.
- 2) Each state will treat the conviction as if it occurred in their state.
- 3) A violator of a compact state is treated as a resident if he violates in any other compact state.
- 4) If a violator fails to appear and take care of the citation, then the state issuing the citation may notify the violator's home state.
- 5) The home state then notifies the violator that his or her license will be suspended until the terms of the citation are complied with.

Who makes the determination as to whether the violation that occurred in one state is bad enough to revoke the license in Alaska?

Compact Administrator Procedures [page 7, line 29, to page 8, line 30], provides for an administrator to be selected from the Department of Public Safety (DPS). This administrator would be someone of command level, probably a lieutenant or above. A DPS clerk would receive downloads of the most recent revocation information to give to the compact administrator. The administrator would consult with the director's staff in the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers to determine whether to revoke an Alaska resident's license based on revocation issued outside the state. Based on the authority in the compact when someone is revoked in another state, Alaska can simply administratively adopt and accept that revocation based on the screening of the compact administrator. For example, if an Alaska resident committed a violation in Wyoming for which he or she was convicted after returning to Alaska, Wyoming

would send that conviction information to Alaska and Alaska would then notify the violator and that is when a court hearing would be involved. So, the court hearing is in the violator's home state.

The authorization for due process and court proceedings in the home state is located in Section 3 of the bill, page 10, line 27, where the penalty provisions in Title 16 are amended, thus giving Alaska, as the home state, the authority to revoke a license based on a conviction in another state. The person must actually be convicted in another state of something revocable, he said. Then that state would notify Alaska and Alaska could take action as the home state. Section 1 of the Wildlife Violator Compact itself gives Alaska the authority to adopt the revocation of a Nevada resident who is convicted of a violation and revoked in Nevada.

Who makes the determination as to whether the violation that occurred in one state is bad enough to revoke the license in Alaska?

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2/19/08

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON
HOUSE DISTRICT 28

Sponsor Statement Wildlife Violator Compact HB 267

This legislation would allow Alaska to join other states in entering into a Wildlife Violator Compact. The Wildlife Compact (WVC) was created in 1989 when passed into law in Colorado, Utah and Oregon and currently there are 26 states participating in the compact. Ohio will be the 27th state joining in January of 2008. The WVC is an interstate agreement to enhance compliance with the hunting, fishing and other wildlife laws, ordinances and regulations of participating states, while providing for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators.

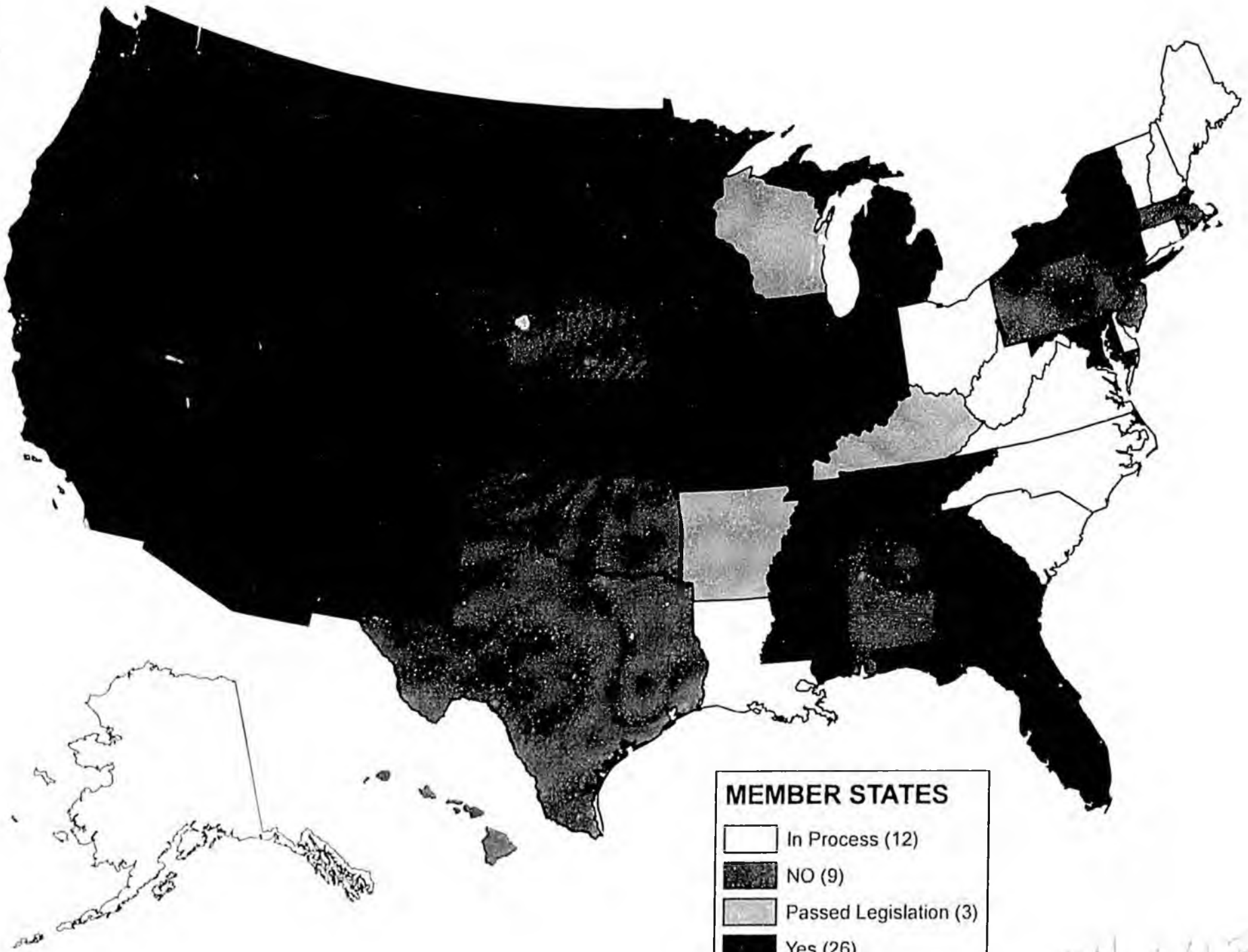
Compact Benefits for the Consumer:

- Delays and or the inconvenience involved with the processing of a violation are comparable for residents and non-residents of participating states.
- Personal recognizance is permitted in many cases involving wildlife violations. Certain violations and circumstances still require an immediate appearance or bonding.

Compact Benefits for the Agency:

- Wildlife law enforcement officers are able to devote more time to patrol, surveillance and apprehension of violators since they are not burdened with violator processing procedures.
- The burden on courts and jail facilities is reduced because of the decreased case load involving immediate appearances, bonding and incarceration.
- Public relations are improved by not having to subject as many violators to the inconveniences of immediate appearance, bonding or incarceration.
- The numbers of "Failure to Appear" cases are reduced because non-residents cannot ignore a citation from participating states without facing the suspension of their wildlife license privileges in their home state.
- Wildlife law violators are put on notice that their activities in one state can affect their privilege to recreate in all participating states.

80/6/1c



MEMBER STATES

	In Process (12)
	NO (9)
	Passed Legislation (3)
	Yes (26)

ON FILE

2/19/08

This nonresident poacher from Alabama is posing with an illegal cow caribou. He and his hunting companions took a total of 11 illegal caribou and entirely wasted the meat of 9. If Alaska were a compact member, their hunting licenses would have been revoked in 26 states instead of Alaska only.

ALASKA



HB 267

Wildlife Violator Compact

Representative Craig Johnson

465-6871

ON FILE

TWENTY-SIX STATES

2/19/08



MEMBER STATES

■ NO
□ Yes

WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT STATES
OCTOBER 20, 2005

ARIZONA
CALIFORNIA
COLORADO
GEORGIA
IDAHO
INDIANA
IOWA
KANSAS
MARYLAND
MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA
MISSOURI

MONTANA
NEVADA
NEW MEXICO
NORTH DAKOTA
OREGON
SOUTH DAKOTA
UTAH
WASHINGTON
WYOMING

2006 AND 2007 ADDITIONS

MISSISSIPPI
ILLINOIS
TENNESSEE
FLORIDA
NEW YORK

2/19/08

WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY AND DUE PROCESS

This is official notice that the member states of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, as listed below, have agreed to recognize, as applicable, the attached wildlife license suspension or revocation notice and/or order as if the qualifying offense, conviction, and suspension or revocation had occurred in those states. Obtaining or attempting to obtain any license, tag or permit that is prohibited by the attached notice may be an additional and separate violation if the license, tag or permit is obtained from any of the member states. Any license, tag or permit obtained in violation of the attached notice and/or order may be invalid.

It is your responsibility to contact any member state where you intend to obtain or attempt to obtain any license, permit or tag to determine your eligibility to purchase that license, permit or tag, or to determine if appeal procedures are available. You may determine your eligibility by inquiring in writing to the specific member state at the address listed below.

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact member states include:

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

Member states contact information is as follows:

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Law Enforcement Branch – IWVC
2221 W. Greenway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

California Dept. of Fish & Game
Law Enforcement Branch
1416 Ninth St., Ste. 1326
Sacramento, CA 95814

Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
2070 US Hwy 278 S.E.
Social Circle, GA 30025

Colorado DNR, Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

Idaho Fish & Game
Enforcement Bureau
600 S. Walnut Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

Member states contact information is as follows:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Law Enforcement
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division
402 W. Washington St. Room W255D
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Iowa DNR/Fish & Wildlife Division
Law Enforcement Bureau
Wallace State Office Bldg.
E 9th & Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50319

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
512 S.E. 25th Avenue
Pratt, KS 67124-8174

Maryland Natural Resources Police
Tawes State Office Bldg., E-3
580 Taylor Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division
530 W. Allegan
P.O. Box 30031
Lansing, MI 48909

Minnesota DNR, Enforcement Division
500 Lafayette Rd, Box 47
St. Paul, MN 55155

Missouri Department of Conservation
Protection Division
PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
1505 Eastover Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-6374

Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Enforcement Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

Nevada Department of Wildlife
1100 Valley Rd
Reno, NV 89512

Member states contact information is as follows:

New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
PO Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

New York State Dept. of Environmental
Conservation
Division of Law Enforcement
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-2500

North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.
Chief of Law Enforcement
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
3406 Cherry Ave NE
Salem, OR 97303

Tennessee, Wildlife Resources Agency
Ellington Agricultural Center
P.O. Box 40747
Nashville, TN 37204

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
Division of Wildlife
523 E. Capital Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact
P.O. Box 146301
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Enforcement Program
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Wyoming Game & Fish Dept.
5400 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82006

2/19/08

WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT



Why should Alaska join?



PRESENTED BY

Alan G. Cain

*Statewide Law Enforcement Specialist
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game*

HISTORY

- PATTERNED AFTER THE DRIVERS LICENSE COMPACT

- LEGISLATION DRAFTED BY NEVADA &

COLORADO IN 1985

- LEGISLATION PASSED IN 1989 IN COLORADO,

NEVADA, & OREGON

- OFFICIALLY STARTED 1991 BETWEEN COLORADO, NEVADA, & OREGON



WHY?

- Two poachers from Missouri convicted of taking two bighorn sheep w/o licenses in Wyoming. Both fined \$19,800 and loss of hunting privileges for 10 years



WYOMING

- Two habitual wildlife violators convicted of taking two bighorn rams out of season on Christmas eve in Wyoming



IDAHO

- A spike bull elk killed during closed season in Idaho and hauled back into Montana with Montana elk tag
- Group consisted of eight Montana residences that had been illegally killing 5-10 bulls in Idaho during closed season for 10-15 years having a significant impact on the bull population in the area



COLORADO

- This individual was convicted in Arizona. He was then convicted of illegal guiding in Colorado



MISSOURI

- Shooting deer illegally in Iowa and bringing them to the Missouri to be checked as legal kills may have seemed like a slick idea to three Missouri men, but the scheme cost them more than \$20,000



ARIZONA

- This poacher is posing with 4 deer and 3 javelina. All were taken on one hunting trip. This guy had been poaching for years, until an informant told officials about him



This nonresident poacher from Alabama is posing with an illegal cow caribou. He and his hunting companions took a total of 11 illegal caribou and entirely wasted the meat of 9. If Alaska were a compact member, their hunting licenses would have been revoked in 26 states instead of Alaska only.

ALASKA



FOUNDATION

- PREVENT POACHERS REVOKED IN ONE STATE FROM HUNTING OR FISHING IN OTHER STATES
- PROVIDE FOR ISSUANCE OF CITATION TO NON-RESIDENTS VERSUS ARREST
- PROVIDE STRONG DETERRANCE FOR SERIOUS FISH & WILDLIFE CRIMES

CURRENT PROVISIONS

- ANYONE REVOKED IN ONE COMPACT STATE IS REVOKED IN ALL OTHER COMPACT STATES IF THE CONVICTION IS A BASIS FOR REVOCATION IN THAT STATE
- EACH STATE WILL TREAT THE CONVICTION AS IF IT OCCURRED IN THEIR STATE
- A VIOLATOR OF A COMPACT STATE SHALL BE TREATED AS A RESIDENT IF HE VIOLATES IN ANY OTHER COMPACT STATE
- IF THE VIOLATOR FTA'S THEN THE STATE ISSUING THE CITATION MAY NOTIFY THE HOME STATE

CURRENT PROVISIONS (cont'd)

- THE HOME STATE NOTIFIES THE VIOLATOR THAT HE WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL THE TERMS OF THE CITATION ARE COMPLIED WITH.
- REVOCATION INFORMATION IS ENTERED INTO UTAH'S DATA BASE
- EACH COMPACT STATE ENTERS & CONTROLS THEIR OWN INFORMATION. EACH STATE CAN ACCESS INFORMATION ON ALL THE REVOKEES IN THE DATABASE AND SORT BY VIOLATION IF THEY WISH
- THIS ALLOWS FOR VIEWING ONLY THOSE VIOLATIONS WHICH ARE REVOCABLE IN YOUR STATE

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

- BASIC VIOLATOR INFORMATION STORED ON A MAINFRAME COMPUTER HOSTED BY THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
- ACCESS TO MAINFRAME IS GRANTED TO COMPACT ADMINISTRATORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL IN MEMBER STATES
- PERIODIC AND ON-DEMAND DOWNLOADS OF CURRENT REVOKEE INFORMATION ARE PROVIDED TO MEMBER STATES

TECHNICAL ASPECTS (cont'd)

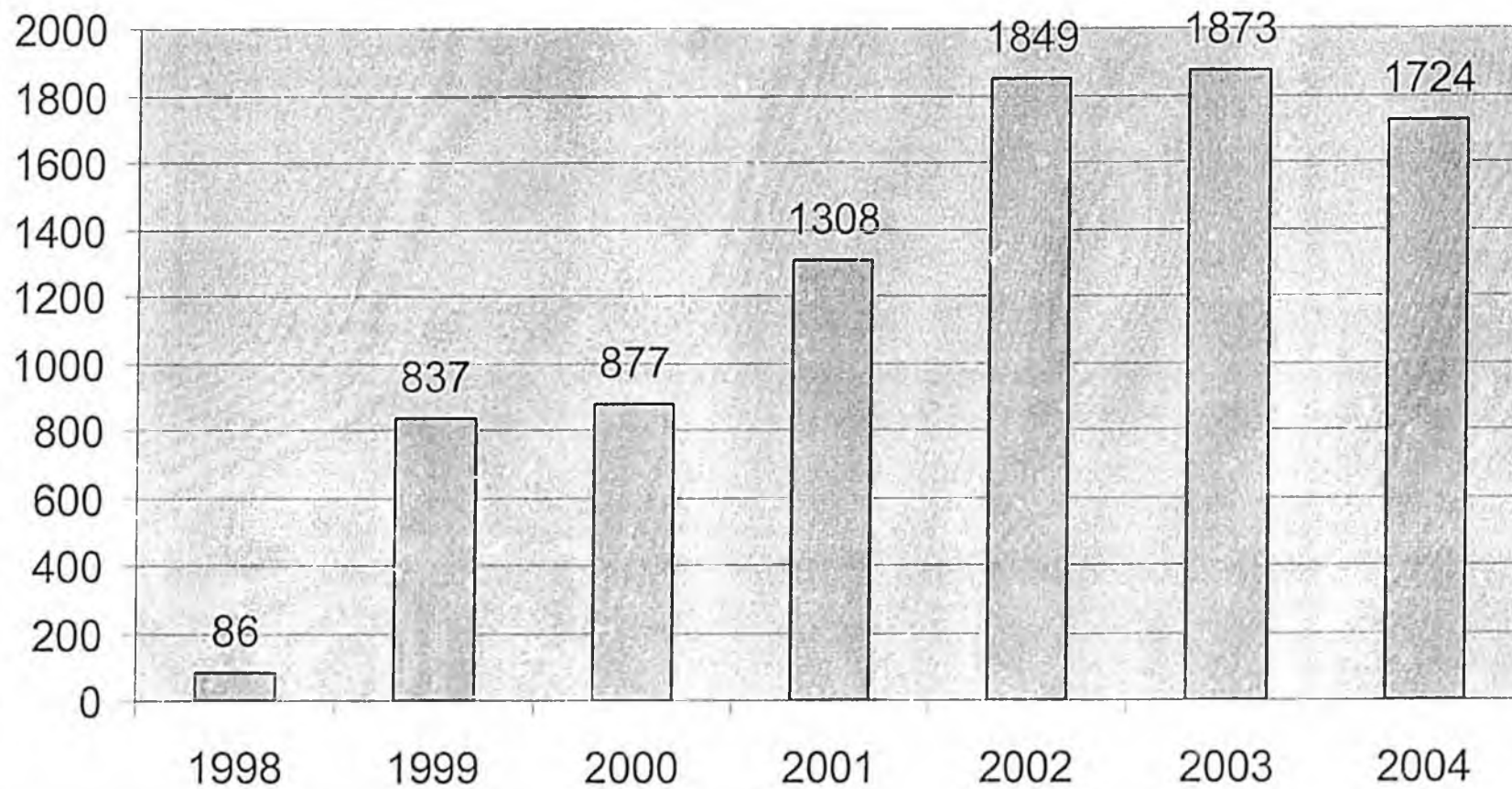
- DOWNLOADS OF VIOLATOR INFORMATION MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO DRAWING AND AUTOMATED LICENSING SYSTEMS TO PREVENT REVOKEES FROM OBTAINING LICENSES IN MEMBER STATES



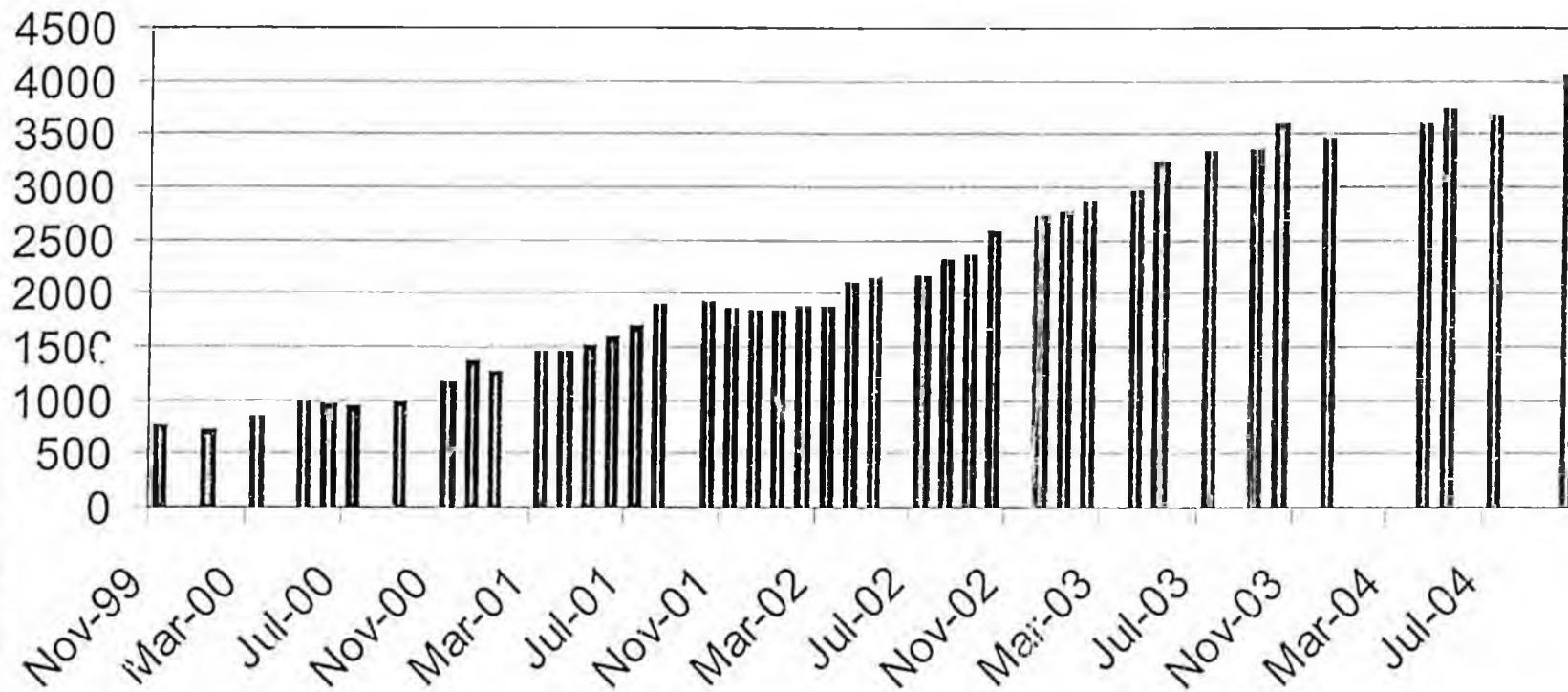
STATUS

- APPROXIMATELY 4,100 NAMES CURRENTLY EXIST IN THE DATABASE
- A TOTAL OF 9,788 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN REVOKED THROUGH THE COMPACT (as of June 2005)
- APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT ARE REVOKED DUE TO BIG GAME VIOLATIONS
- 25 STATES CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN VIOLATOR COMPACT
- 3 MINUTE AVERAGE PER ENTRY

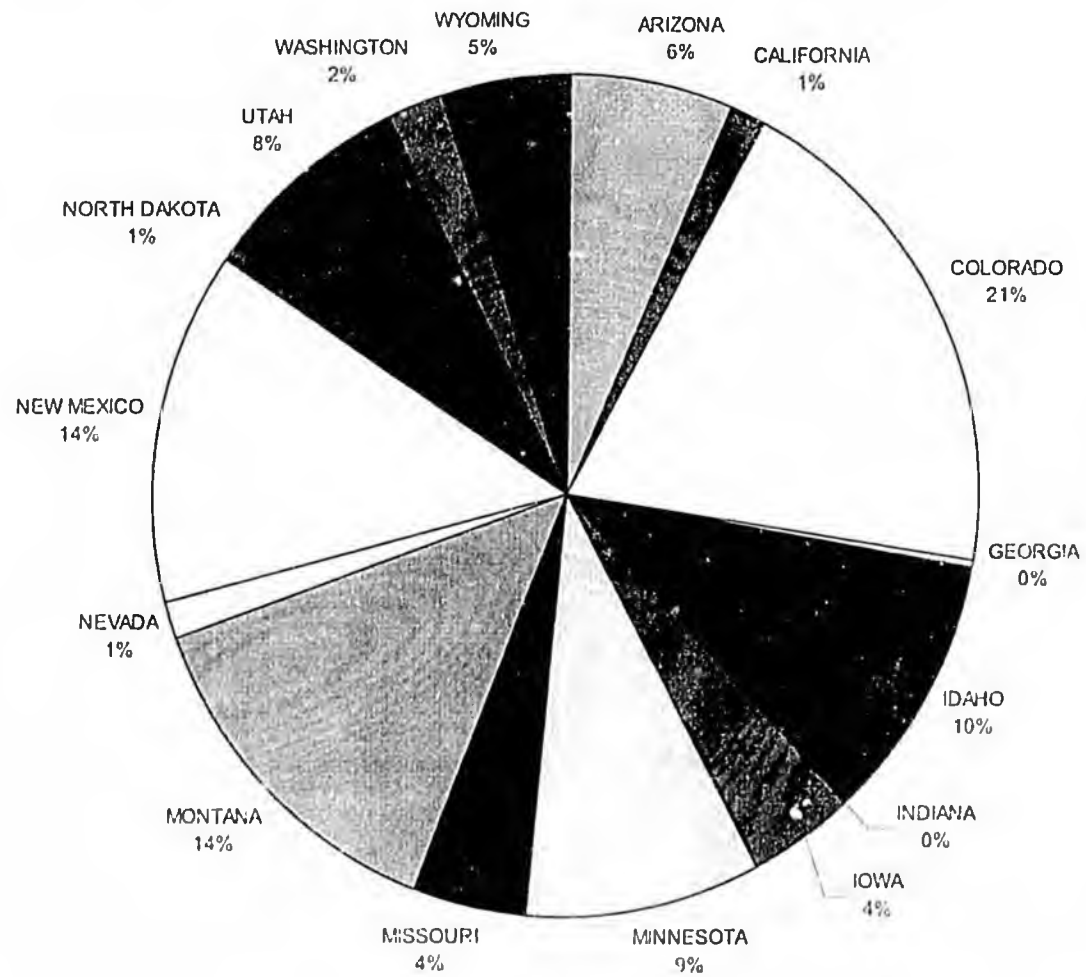
Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact Database 10-26-98 to
07-16-2004 Suspensions Added Per Year

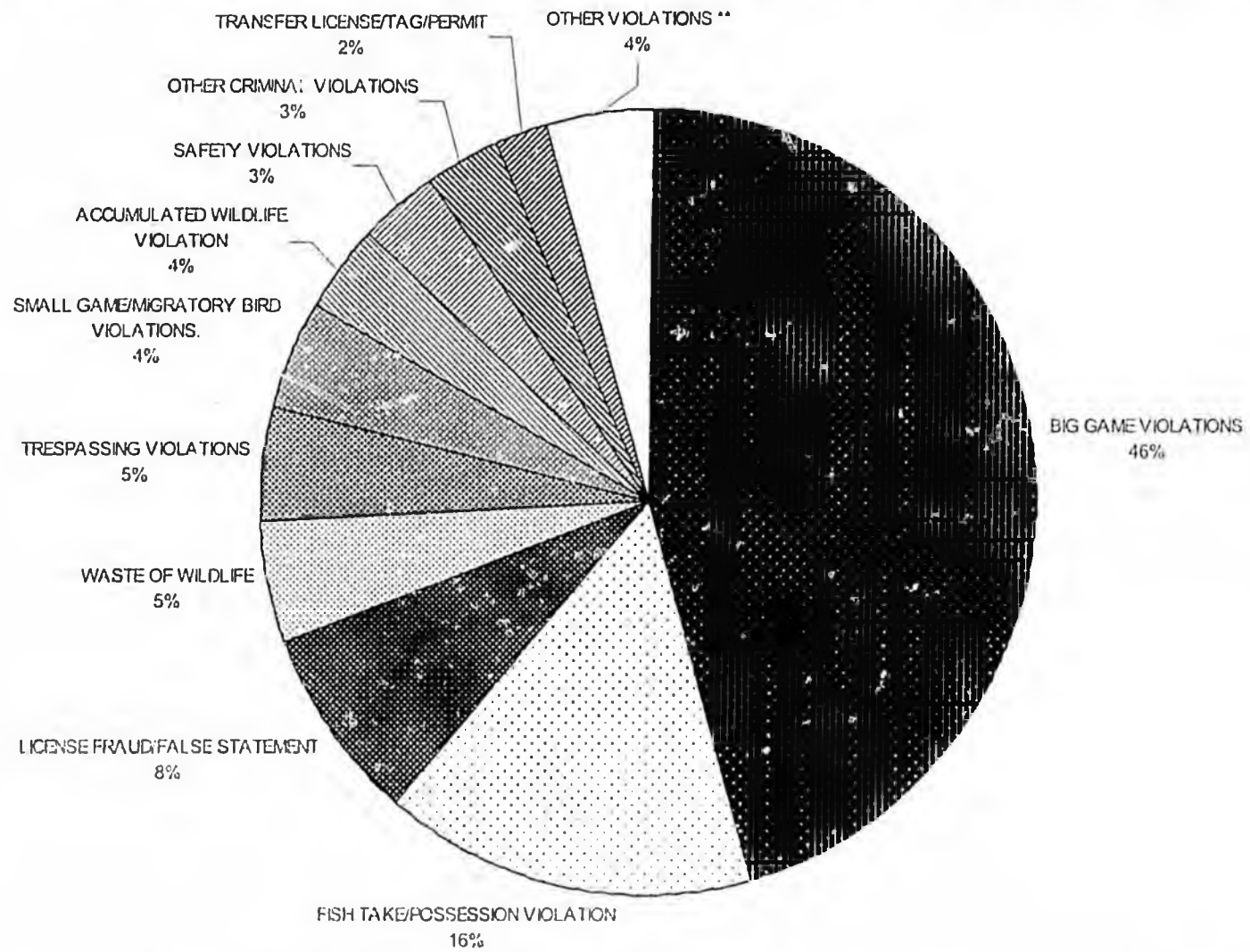


INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT "CURRENT"
SUSPENSIONS AS OF DATE LISTED

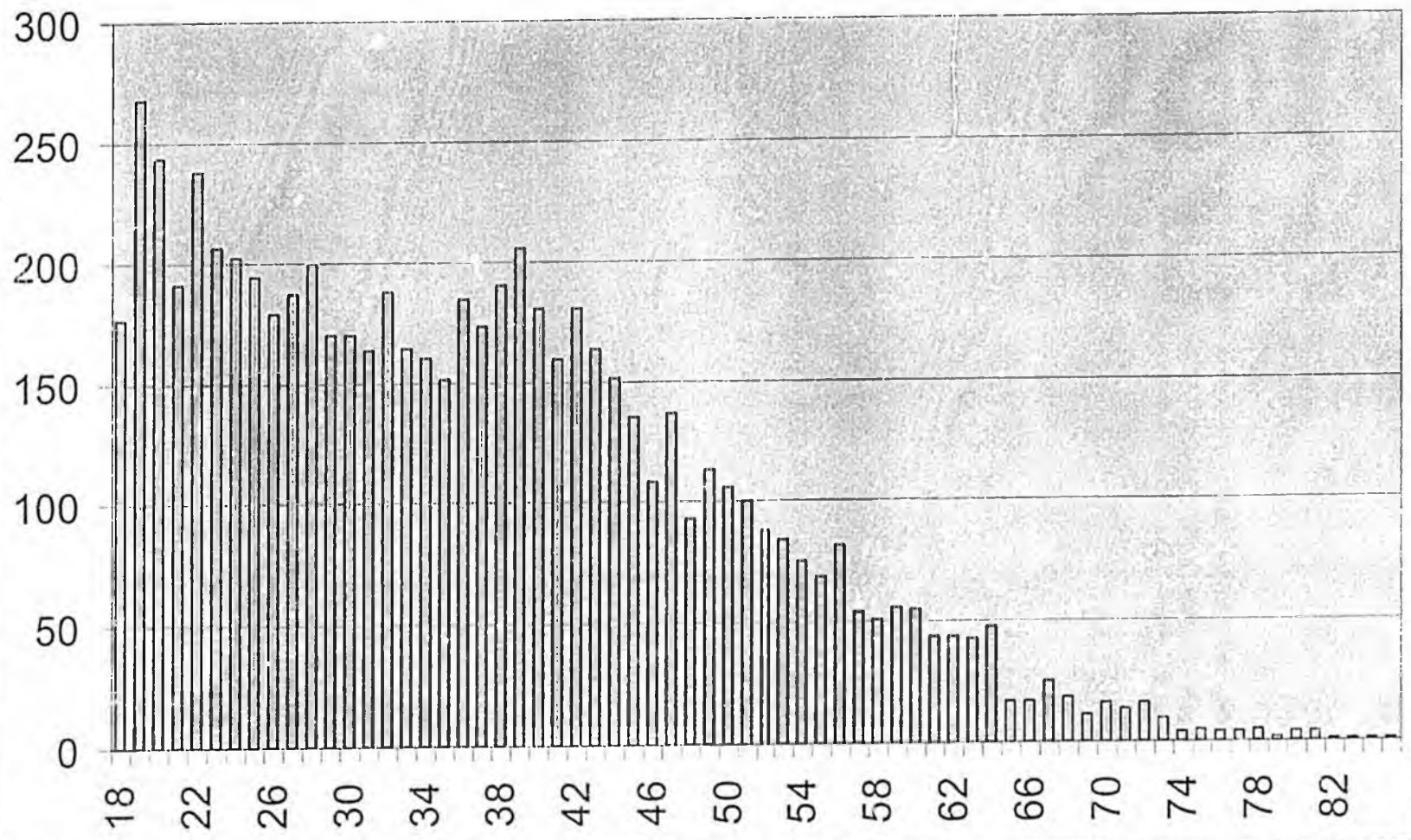


Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact Suspension Record Contributions to Database 10/1998 through 10/27//2004





Age of Suspended Persons at Revocation Begin
Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact 12/31/2003



COMPACT MEETINGS

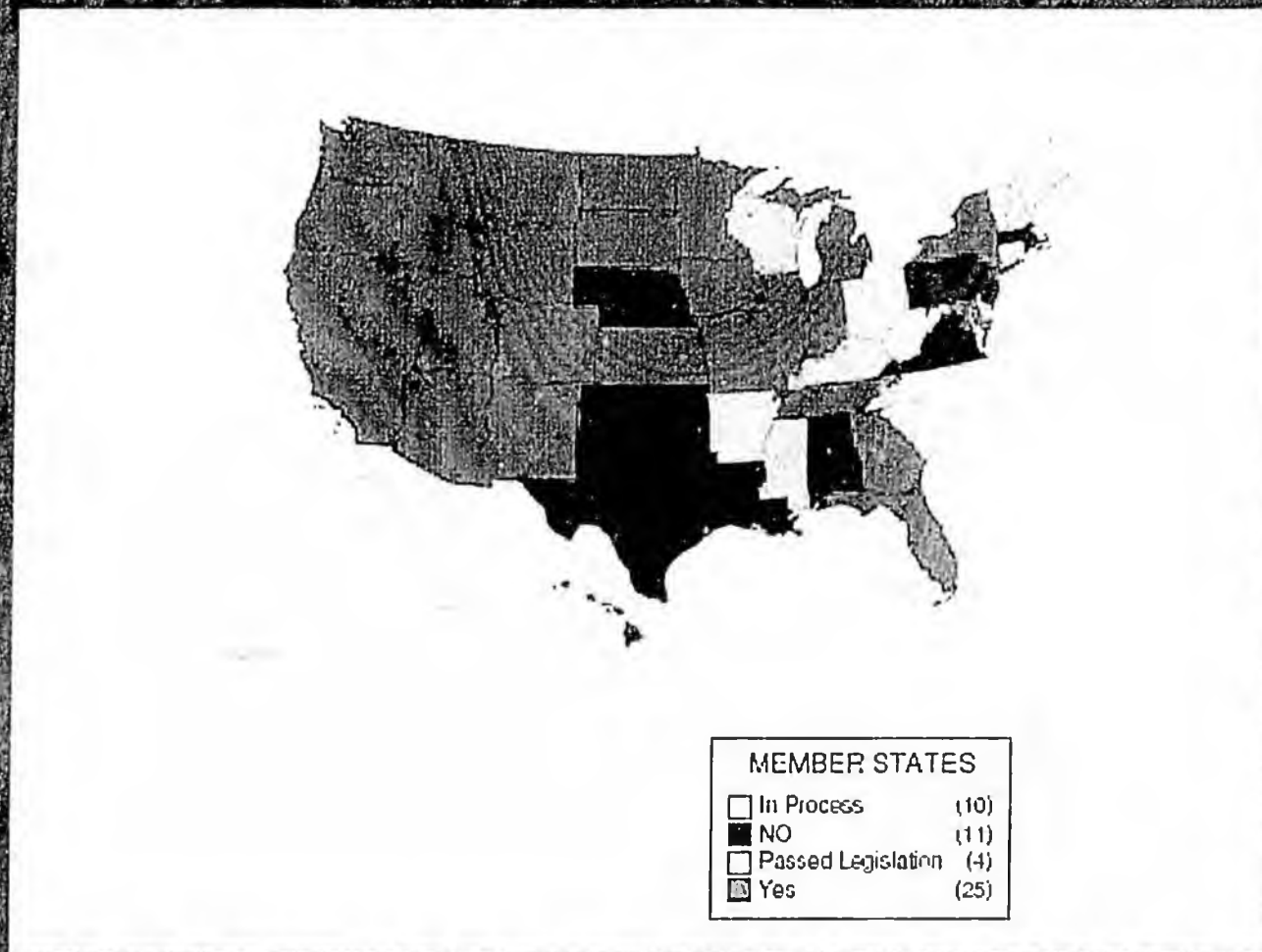
- EACH STATE'S CHIEF OR LICENSING AUTHORITY SHALL APPOINT A COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR
- IWVC MEETING IS HELD ANNUALLY DURING THE AFWA CONFERENCE



COMPACT MEMBERS

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Washington
- Wyoming

Wildlife Compact Member States



REASONS ALASKA SHOULD JOIN

- Greatly increase deterrence of serious fish & wildlife crimes in Alaska by individuals who hunt or fish in other states
- Increase compliance in paying fines by nonresidents
- Greater protection of valuable game animals throughout the United States

2/19/00

WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT OPERATIONS MANUAL INDEX

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SECTION I BACKGROUND

I. Historical Information

The concept of a wildlife violator compact was first advanced in the early 1980s by member states in the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Law enforcement administrators and Wildlife Commissioners from several states began discussing the idea of a compact based on the format of the existing Drivers License Compact and Non-Resident Violator Compact, both of these related to motor vehicle operator licensing and enforcement.

In 1985 draft compacts were developed independently in Colorado and Nevada. Subsequently, these drafts were merged and the Wildlife Violator Compact (WVC) was presented for discussion at the 1986 Law Enforcement Technical Committee Workshop of the Western Association.

During the 1989 Legislative session compact legislation was passed into law in Colorado, Nevada and Oregon. These three states formed the nucleus for the development of the operational procedures of the WVC.

II. Compact Benefits

A. For the consumer

1. Delays, and/or the inconvenience involved with the processing of a violation are comparable for residents and non-residents of participating states.

2. Personal recognizance is permitted in many cases involving wildlife violations. Certain violations and circumstances still require an immediate appearance or bonding.

B. For the agency

1. Wildlife law enforcement officers are able to devote more time to patrol, surveillance and apprehension of violators since they are not burdened with violator processing procedures.

2. The burden on courts and jail facilities is reduced because of the decreased case load involving immediate appearances, bonding and incarceration.

3. Public relations are improved by not having to subject as many violators to the inconveniences of immediate appearance, bonding, or incarceration.

4. The number of "Failure to Appear" cases is reduced because non-residents cannot ignore a citation from participating states without facing the suspension of their wildlife license privileges in their home states.

5. Wildlife law violators are put on notice that their activities in one state can affect their privilege to recreate in all participating states.

SECTION II WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

NOTE: This section contains the text of the Wildlife Violator Compact as passed by the Colorado Legislature in 1989. Details may differ from Wildlife Violator Compact language enacted by other participating states, but the substantive language remains intact.

ARTICLE I Findings, Declaration of Policy, and Purpose

(a) The participating states find that:

- (1) Wildlife resources are managed in trust by the respective states for the benefit of all residents and visitors.
- (2) The protection of the wildlife resources of a state is materially affected by the degree of compliance with state statutes, laws, regulations, ordinances, and administrative rules relating to the management of such resources.
- (3) The preservation, protection, management, and restoration of wildlife contributes immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational, and economic aspects of such natural resources.
- (4) Wildlife resources are valuable without regard to political boundaries; therefore, every person should be required to comply with wildlife preservation, protection, management, and restoration laws, ordinances, and administrative rules and regulations of the participating states as a condition precedent to the continuance or issuance of any license to hunt, fish, trap, or possess wildlife.
- (5) Violation of wildlife laws interferes with the management of wildlife resources and may endanger the safety of persons and property.

(6) The mobility of many wildlife law violators necessitates the maintenance of channels of communication among the various states.

(7) In most instances, a person who is cited for a wildlife violation in a state other than his home state:

(i) Is required to post collateral or a bond to secure appearance for a trial at a later date; or

(ii) Is taken into custody until the collateral or bond is posted; or

(iii) Is taken directly to court for an immediate appearance.

(8) The purpose of the enforcement practices set forth in paragraph (7) of this article is to ensure compliance with the terms of a wildlife citation by the cited person who, if permitted to continue on his way after receiving the citation, could return to his home state and disregard his duty under the terms of the citation.

(9) In most instances, a person receiving a wildlife citation in his home state is permitted to accept the citation from the officer at the scene of the violation and immediately continue on his way after agreeing or being instructed to comply with the terms of the citation.

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

(11) The enforcement practices described in paragraph (7) of this article consume an undue amount of law enforcement time.

(b) It is the policy of the participating states to:

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

(2) Recognize the suspension of wildlife license privileges of any person whose license privileges have been suspended by a participating state and treat such suspension as if it had occurred in their state.

(3) Allow a violator, except as provided in paragraph (b) of Article III, to accept a wildlife citation and, without delay, proceed on his way, whether or not a

resident of the state in which the citation was issued, provided that the violator's home state is party to this compact.

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

(5) Allow the home state to recognize and treat convictions recorded against its residents, which convictions occurred in a participating state, as though they had occurred in the home state.

(6) Extend cooperation to its fullest extent among the participating states for enforcing compliance with the terms of a wildlife citation issued in one participating state to a resident of another participating state.

(7) Maximize effective use of law enforcement personnel and information.

(8) Assist court systems in the efficient disposition of wildlife violations.

(c) The purpose of this compact is to:

(1) Provide a means through which participating states may join in a reciprocal program to effectuate the policies enumerated in paragraph (b) of this article in a uniform and orderly manner.

(2) Provide for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators operating within participating states in recognition of the violator's right to due process and the sovereign status of a participating state.

ARTICLE II Definitions

As used in this compact, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) "Citation" means any summons, complaint, summons and complaint, ticket, penalty assessment, or other official document issued to a person by a wildlife officer or other peace officer for a wildlife violation which contains an order requiring the person to respond.

(b) "Collateral" means any cash or other security deposited to secure an appearance for trial in connection with the issuance by a wildlife officer or other peace officer of a citation for a wildlife violation.

(c) "Compliance" with respect to a citation means the act of answering a citation through an appearance in a court or tribunal, or through the payment of fines, costs, and surcharges, if any.

- (d) "Conviction" means a conviction, including any court conviction, for any offense related to the preservation, protection, management, or restoration of wildlife which is prohibited by state statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule, and such conviction shall also include the forfeiture of any bail, bond, or other security deposited to secure appearance by a person charged with having committed any such offense, the payment of a penalty assessment, a plea of nolo contendere and the imposition of a deferred or suspended sentence by the court.
- (e) "Court" means a court of law, including magistrate's court and the justice of the peace court.
- (f) "Home state" means the state of primary residence of a person.
- (g) "Issuing state" means the participating state which issues a wildlife citation to the violator.
- (h) "License" means any license, permit, or other public document which conveys to the person to whom it was issued the privilege of pursuing, possessing, or taking any wildlife regulated by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule of a participating state.
- (i) "Licensing authority" means the department or division within each participating state which is authorized by law to issue or approve licenses or permits to hunt, fish, trap, or possess wildlife.
- (j) "Participating state" means any state which enacts legislation to become a member of this wildlife compact.
- (k) "Personal recognizance" means an agreement by a person made at the time of issuance of the wildlife citation that such person will comply with the terms of the citation.
- (l) "State" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Provinces of Canada, and other countries.
- (m) "Suspension" means any revocation, denial, or withdrawal of any or all license privileges, including the privilege to apply for, purchase, or exercise the benefits conferred by any license.
- (n) "Terms of the citation" means those conditions and options expressly stated upon the citation.
- (o) "Wildlife" means all species of animals including, but not limited to, mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans, which are defined as "wildlife" and are protected or otherwise regulated by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule in a participating state. Species included in the definition of

"wildlife" vary from state to state and determination of whether a species is "wildlife" for the purposes of this compact shall be based on local law.

- (p) "Wildlife law" means any statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule developed and enacted for the management of wildlife resources and the uses thereof.
- (q) "Wildlife officer" means any individual authorized by a participating state to issue a citation for a wildlife violation.
- (r) "Wildlife violation" means any cited violation of a statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule developed and enacted for the management of wildlife resources and the uses thereof.

ARTICLE III Procedures for Issuing State

- (a) When issuing a citation for a wildlife violation, a wildlife officer shall issue a citation to any person whose primary residence is in a participating state in the same manner as though the person were a resident of the issuing state and shall not require such person to post collateral to secure appearance, subject to the exceptions noted in paragraph (b) of this article, if the officer receives the recognizance of such person that he will comply with the terms of the citation.
- (b) Personal recognizance is acceptable (1) if not prohibited by local law, issuing agency policy, procedure or regulation, or by the compact manual and (2) if the violator provides adequate proof of identification to the wildlife officer.
- (c) Upon conviction or failure of a person to comply with the terms of a wildlife citation, the appropriate official shall report the conviction or failure to comply to the licensing authority of the participating state in which the wildlife citation was issued. The report shall be made in accordance with procedures specified by the issuing state and shall contain information as specified in the compact manual as minimum requirements for effective processing by the home state.
- (d) Upon receipt of the report of conviction or noncompliance pursuant to paragraph (c) of this article, the licensing authority of the issuing state shall transmit to the licensing authority of the home state of the violator the information in form and content as prescribed in the compact manual.

ARTICLE IV
Procedure for Home State

- (a) Upon receipt of a report from the licensing authority of the issuing state reporting the failure of a violator to comply with the terms of a citation, the licensing authority of the home state shall notify the violator and shall initiate a suspension action in accordance with the home state's suspension procedures and shall suspend the violator's license privileges until satisfactory evidence of compliance with the terms of the wildlife citation has been furnished by the issuing state to the home state licensing authority. All member states may honor a suspension based on failure to comply. Due process safeguards will be accorded.
- (b) Upon receipt of a report of conviction from the licensing authority of the issuing state, the licensing authority of the home state shall enter such conviction in its records and shall treat such conviction as though it occurred in the home state for the purposes of the suspension of license privileges.
- (c) The licensing authority of the home state shall maintain a record of actions taken and shall make reports to issuing states as provided in the compact manual.

ARTICLE V
Reciprocal Recognition of Suspension

- (a) All participating states shall recognize the suspension of license privileges of any person by any participating state as though the violation resulting in the suspension had occurred in their state and could have been the basis for suspension of license privileges in their state.
- (b) Each participating state shall communicate suspension information to other participating states in form and content as contained in the compact manual.

ARTICLE VI
Applicability of Other Laws

- (a) Except as expressly required by provisions of this compact, nothing herein shall be construed to affect the right of any participating state to apply any of its laws relating to license privileges to any person or circumstance or to invalidate or prevent any agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a participating state and a nonparticipating state concerning wildlife law enforcement.

ARTICLE VII
Compact Administrator Procedures

- (a) For the purpose of administering the provisions of this compact and to serve as a governing body for the resolution of all matters relating to the operation of this compact, a board of compact administrators is established. The board shall be composed of one representative from each of the participating states to be known as the compact administrator. The compact administrator shall be appointed by the head of the licensing authority of each participating state and shall serve and be subject to removal in accordance with the laws of the state he represents. A compact administrator may provide for the discharge of his duties and the performance of his functions as a board member by an alternate. An alternate shall not be entitled to serve unless written notification of his identity has been given to the board.
- (b) Each member of the board of compact administrators shall be entitled to one vote. No action of the board shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority of the total number of the board's votes are cast in favor thereof. Action by the board shall be only at a meeting at which a majority of the participating states are represented.
- (c) The board shall elect annually from its membership a chairman and vice-chairman.
- (d) The board shall adopt bylaws not inconsistent with the provisions of this compact or the laws of a participating state for the conduct of its business and shall have the power to amend and rescind its bylaws.
- (e) The board may accept for any of its purposes and functions under this compact any and all donations and grants of moneys, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, conditional or otherwise, from any state, the United States, or any governmental agency, and may receive, utilize and dispose of same.
- (f) The board may contract with, or accept services or personnel from, any governmental or intergovernmental agency, individual, firm, or corporation, or any private nonprofit organization or institution.
- (g) The board shall formulate all necessary procedures and develop uniform forms and documents for administering the provisions of this compact. All procedures and forms adopted pursuant to board action shall be contained in a compact manual.

ARTICLE VIII
Entry into Compact and Withdrawal

- (a) This compact shall become effective at such time as it is adopted in substantially similar form by two or more states.

- (b) (1) Entry into the compact shall be made by resolution of ratification executed by the authorized officials of the applying state and submitted to the chairman of the board.
- (2) The resolution shall substantially be in the form and content as provided in the compact manual and shall include the following:
- (i) A citation of the authority from which the state is empowered to become a party to this compact;
 - (ii) An agreement of compliance with the terms and provisions of this compact; and
 - (iii) An agreement that compact entry is with all states participating in the compact and with all additional states legally becoming a party to the compact.
- (3) The effective date of entry shall be specified by the applying state but shall not be less than sixty days after notice has been given (a) by the chairman of the board of the compact administrators or (b) by the secretariat of the board to each participating state that the resolution from the applying state has been received.
- (c) A participating state may withdraw from participation in this compact by official written notice to each participating state, but withdrawal shall not become effective until ninety days after the notice of withdrawal is given. The notice shall be directed to the compact administrator of each member state. No withdrawal of any state shall affect the validity of this compact as to the remaining participating states.

ARTICLE IX
Amendments to the Compact

- (a) This compact may be amended from time to time. Amendments shall be presented in resolution form to the chairman of the board of compact administrators and shall be initiated by one or more participating states.
- (b) Adoption of an amendment shall require endorsement by all participating states and shall become effective thirty days after the date of the last endorsement.
- (c) Failure of a participating state to respond to the compact chairman within sixty days after receipt of a proposed amendment shall constitute endorsement thereof.

ARTICLE X
Construction and Severability

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

ARTICLE XI
Title

This compact shall be known as the "Wildlife Violator Compact".

**SECTION III
PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

I. The Wildlife Violator Compact

A. What is it?

The Wildlife Violator Compact (WVC) assures non-resident violators receiving citations for certain wildlife violations in participating states the same treatment accorded residents who are in violation. Procedures are established in Section IV of this manual which cause a non-resident violator who fails to comply with the terms of a citation issued in a participating state to face the possibility of the suspension of his wildlife license privileges in his home state until the terms of the citation are met. Safeguards are built into the WVC to assure that a non-resident violator is afforded all due process protection.

In addition, the WVC provides for the reciprocal recognition of the suspension of license privileges by participating states, subject to limitations again intended to provide due process protection. The reciprocal recognition of suspensions is intended to address the problems associated with the mobility of many violators.

Finally, the WVC provides that information on convictions in participating states shall be forwarded to the home state of the violator. The home state shall treat such convictions as if they had occurred in that state for the purposes of license suspension actions.

The WVC not only assures equal treatment of residents and non-residents of participating states, but also enhances the law enforcement services and deterrent value of time spent patrolling by uniformed officers.

B. What it is not.

The WVC is not a device to secure court appearance if a defendant has previously delivered himself into the court's jurisdiction and trial has been postponed to a later date. It is not a device for collecting unpaid portions of fines allowed to be paid in installments by the courts. It is not a punitive device.

II. Release on Personal Recognizance

A. Violations covered

1. Any violation subject to the provisions of a "Penalty Assessment", which allows a violator to comply with a citation by mailing a fine payment to the issuing agency or a court, thereby admitting guilt without a formal appearance.

2. Any violation written as a summons requiring a violator to deal directly with the court, either in person, by mail or through an attorney. Unless there are other restrictions in this document or in the laws, policies or procedures of the issuing state or the court of jurisdiction.

3. In order for a violation to be subject to these provisions the person to whom the citation is issued must be a resident of a Compact state, other than the issuing state, at the time the citation is issued.

B. Types of Violations Not Covered

1. Any violations that mandate a personal appearance.

2. Any petty offense or misdemeanor violation that has a jail term as a mandatory penalty.

3. Any felony violation.

4. Any violation that the issuing officer deems serious enough to arrest a resident violator.

5. Any violation or situation which the laws, policies or procedures of the issuing state dictate shall be handled otherwise.

III. Compliance With a Citation

A. Methods of Compliance

1. Payment by mail where provided for.
2. Responding to the citation in person.
3. Submission of a plea by mail where allowed.
4. Responding through an attorney where allowed.

B. Evidence of Compliance (in response to a notice of suspension for non-compliance).

1. Certificate from the court.
2. Copy of the court judgement.

NOTE: personal representations, check stubs, money order receipts, etc. are not acceptable.

3. The violator copy of a Notice of Compliance sent by the issuing state.

SECTION IV COMPACT PROCESS

The following are the general procedures to be followed by enforcement agencies and courts in States which are participants in the Wildlife Violator Compact (WVC). Specific procedures which are developed to comply with the legal and administrative requirements of the various States shall be acceptable so long as they comply with the intent of this manual.

The following procedures make the assumption that the violation in question meets the general requirements of Paragraph II A. of Section III of this Manual.

I. Procedures for the Issuing State

A. The officer issues a citation to the violator on the standard form used in that state.

1. When a non-resident is issued a citation and released on personal recognizance under the provisions of this compact, it is advisable that the signature of the recipient is contained on the citation, regardless of specific requirements on that issue.

2. The citation is returnable to the court at a future date specified on the document, in accordance with the laws, regulations, policies, or procedures of the Agency and/or the Court of jurisdiction

B. If the violator pays the fine or resolves the case with the court, as appropriate, the matter is closed and no further action is taken under the provisions of Paragraphs I and II of this section of the WVC.

C. If the violator does not resolve the case by payment of the fine or with the court, action under the provisions of the WVC will be initiated.

1. The "Notice of Failure to Comply" form will be completed and the original delivered to the violator by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person. The remaining copies are held in a suspense file pending a response from the violator.

Any "Notice of Failure to Comply" shall be processed by the issuing state and reported to the home state within six months of issuance of the citation.

a. Sufficient time will be allowed for the defendant to respond to the Notice of Failure to Comply Form prior to initiating further action under the WVC. This will normally be not less than 14 days and not more than 28 days.

b. If the defendant complies with the terms of the citation within the grace period allowed, no further action is taken under the provisions of this section of the WVC. Final action in a court case is not a prerequisite.

2. If the defendant fails to respond within the time allowed, copy 2 of the Notice of Failure to Comply will be sent to the home state of the defendant. The home state will proceed as outlined in Section II.

Procedures for Home State

a. If at any time beyond this point in the WVC process the defendant resolves the case with the court, it is imperative that copies 3 and 4 of the Notice of failure to comply (Defendant's and Home State Acknowledgment of Compliance) be mailed immediately so that any pending or ongoing suspension of license privileges which are the result of the action at hand may be canceled.

b. At any time subsequent to the mailing of the

Notice of Failure to Comply that the violator complies with the citation as specified in Section B or Section C.1.b, above, no further actions under this section of the WVC will take place.

II. Procedures for the Home State

A. Upon receipt of the "Notice of Failure to Comply" from the issuing state, the licensing authority of the home state of the violator will review the form for the following:

1. Is it legible?
2. Is it complete?
3. Is it timely, within the six month limit of the compact?
4. Is the violation covered under the compact?
5. Are all other aspects of the case proper under applicable state laws, policies, and procedures?

B. If for any reason the case cannot be acted on, it will be returned to the issuing state within 14 days with an explanation of the problem. If all problems are resolved and the case is returned to the home state it will be reinstated.

C. If the case is accepted, it will be entered into the suspension process of the home state.

D. A Notice of Suspension will be prepared and sent to the violator. If it is a provision of the laws, policies or procedures of the home state, an advance warning letter to the violator is acceptable.

1. The Notice of Suspension should have a delayed effective date to permit the violator to contact the court in the issuing state and resolve the case. The length of this delay is subject to the laws, policies or procedures of the home state, but should be at least 14 days in length.

2. The Notice of Suspension must inform the violator of the facts behind the suspension with special emphasis on the procedures to be followed in resolving the matter with the court in the issuing state. Accurate information on the court (name, address, phone number) must be provided in the Notice of Suspension. This will help eliminate inquiries of the home state which are costly, time consuming and nonproductive as the home state can do nothing to resolve the case.

E. Should the defendant request a hearing on the suspension, it will

follow the form appropriate to the laws, policies or procedures of the home state.

1. Such hearings will normally be restricted to challenging the right of the home state to suspend under the provisions of the WVC; to deny receiving the original citation (thus the importance of the violator's signature on the citation); or to claim that the case has been resolved.

2. The question of guilt or innocence regarding the original charge will not be a subject of hearings held under the provisions of this section.

3. If needed, assistance can be requested from the issuing state. This is normally limited to obtaining certified documentation.

4. **NOTE: Suspensions levied for failure to comply with the terms of a citation are enforced in the home state of the violator and honored by all compact states.** These administrative suspensions are not to be confused with suspensions which are the result of convictions of wildlife violations in one or more states which are participants in the WVC.

F. If the suspension is upheld, the defendant must then proceed to resolve the court case with the suspension remaining in effect.

G. If the suspension is denied for any reason, the case is terminated and the suspension order vacated. In such cases the issuing state will be informed of the reason for denial.

H. Appeals from suspension orders will be handled in accordance with the laws, policies and procedures of the home state.

1. Should a suspension order be overturned on appeal, the issuing state shall be notified.

I. When a violator resolves a case with the court in the issuing state, an acknowledgement of compliance will be issued directly to that person. It is the responsibility of the violator to present this document to the licensing authority in the home state in order to terminate the suspension. The acknowledgement of compliance may take any form acceptable to the home state and the Court.

1. If the acknowledgement of compliance is presented prior to the effective date of the suspension, the suspension is cleared immediately.

2. If the acknowledgement of compliance is presented after the effective date of the suspension, reinstatement will be handled in accordance with the laws, policies and procedures of the home state.

J. Any reinstatement or restoration fees shall be established and assessed in accordance with the laws, policies and procedures of the home state.

III. Reciprocal Recognition of Suspensions

A. States participating in the WVC shall recognize the suspension for cause of the license privileges of any person by any other participating state under the following circumstances:

1. The suspension is the result a conviction for one or more of the following violations types or a failure to appear on a wildlife citation:

a) Priority will be placed on the following violation types:

VIOLATION	WVC CODE FOR IWVC
	Database
Illegal take or possession of big game	BGV
Illegal take or possession of threatened or endangered species	TEV
Felony wildlife violations	FEV
License violations, fraud, false statement	LIV
Waste of wildlife	WAV
Accumulated wildlife violations	ACV
Violations while on revocation	REV
Sale/purchase of wildlife	SPV
Failure to Appear	FTA

b) The following violation types will also be subject to reciprocal revocation by member states depending on member state laws:

VIOLATION	WVC CODE FOR IWVC
	Database
Illegal take or possession of small game or migratory birds	SGV
Illegal take or possession of fish	FIV
Illegal take or possession of other wildlife	OWV
Tag/permit/license transfer	TRV
Federal Wildlife Violations	FDV

Other criminal violations	OTV
Guide/outfitter violations	GUV
Safety Violations	SAV
Trespass Violations	TPV
Littering Violations	LPV
Interfering With an Officer	IWO
Commercial Wildlife Violation	COM

2. And, such recognition of suspension is not contrary to the laws of that state.

B. Recognition of suspensions which do not meet the criteria of section III. A. 1 and 2 above will be up to the laws, policies and procedures of that state.

C. Each state participating in the WVC shall communicate suspension information to other participating states, using the secure Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact database. Participating states will use the guidelines prescribed by the board of compact administrators. The following information will be included but not limited to:

1. Positive identification of the subject of the suspension.
Including:

- a. Name
- b. Date of birth
- c. Physical description
- d. Last known address

2. The basis of the suspension including:

- a. Violation(s) and convictions upon which the suspension is based.
- b. The scope of the suspension (ie. fishing, hunting, trapping, all privileges).
- c. Effective dates of the suspension.

- D. In the event documentation of a violation and subsequent license suspension is needed by a member state for license suspension hearings or other purposes, the issuing state shall provide certified copies of the citation or other charging instrument, any arrest or investigation reports, suspension orders and the disposition of the matter.

IV. Transmittal of Conviction Information to the Home State of the Violator

- A. Upon a conviction, the issuing state shall forward to the home state of the violator the following information:

1. Personal Information

- a. Name
- b. Date of birth
- c. Sex
- d. Physical description (height, weight, hair, eyes)
- e. Last known address

2. Violation Information

- a. Citation number
- b. Violation description
- c. Revocation begin & end date
- d. Fine assessed

- B. For the purpose of consideration for license suspension, the home state shall treat such convictions in other participating states as if they had occurred in the home state.

- C. In the event detailed information on a violation is needed by the home state, for license suspension hearings or other purposes, the issuing state shall provide certified copies of the citation or other charging instrument, any arrest or investigation reports and the disposition of the matter.

**SECTION V
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

I. Entry into the Compact

A. Entry into the WVC may be accomplished by the following methods.

1. A state legislature may accomplish WVC joinder by adopting the full compact as a statute.

2. A state legislature may authorize and direct that state's wildlife agency to enter into the compact.

B. Upon legislative action as specified above, entry into the WVC shall be finalized by the submission of a resolution of ratification and an informational application submitted to the chairman of the board of compact administrators.

The resolution of ratification shall be signed by the chief administrator of the wildlife agency or licensing authority and shall include the items found in section (b),2 of Article VIII of the WVC.

C. The effective date of entry shall be specified by the applying state but shall be at least sixty days after notice has been given to each member state by the chairman of the board of compact administrators.

D. Only violations which are committed on or after the effective date of entry, and resulting suspensions, shall be subject to the provisions of the Compact

II. Withdrawal from the Compact

A. A member state may withdraw from the WVC by submitting official written notice to the other member states. Such withdrawal shall not be effective until ninety (90) days after such notice is mailed.

B. Such notice must be directed to the compact administrator of each member state.

C. The withdrawal of one or more member states shall have no effect on the validity of the WVC as to the remaining member states.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME BOARD OF FISHERIES

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

ADF&G
P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 998011-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4110
FAX: (907) 465-6094

01/19/08

January 11, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
Mail Stop 3100
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Support of HB 267

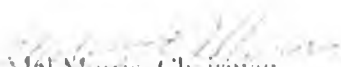
Dear Representative Johnson:

Thank you for your presentation to the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game on October 8, 2007 regarding the Wildlife Violators Compact. We appreciate your efforts, and feel the time has come to bring Alaska into the Compact, joining 26 other states. We recognize the benefits which will come to Alaska by its membership, and support House Bill 267 which will accomplish these goals. Passage of this legislation will provide a strong deterrence for the commission of serious fish and wildlife crimes in Alaska, and will remain a priority of our two Boards.

We applaud the main premise of the Compact which provides for a convicted poacher, whose license has been revoked in one member state, to be revoked in all member states. This sends a clear message that we value our fish and wildlife resources and are serious about protecting them. We also support increased revenues which the state will realize when non-residents who receive citations are more motivated to pay their fines, as opposed to having licenses revoked if they do not respond to citations.

Please let us know what further we may do to lend our voice in support of the successful passage of this needed legislation.

Sincerely,


Mel Morris, Chairman
Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME BOARD OF GAME

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

ADF&G
P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99801-5526
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FAX: (907) 465-6094

2/19/08

January 30, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room # 126
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson:

The Alaska Board of Game supports House Bill 267, Wildlife Violator Compact. The board appreciates your efforts to make it possible for Alaska to join the 26 participating states of the Wildlife Violators Compact.

The Board of Game supports the main premise of the Compact which provides for a convicted wildlife violator whose license has been revoked in one member state, to be revoked in all member states. The Board feels strongly that passage of this bill by the legislature will provide a strong deterrence to violators, knowing that their activities in one state can affect their privilege to recreate in all participating states. Without this bill and the sanctions that it provides through the Wildlife Violators Compact, "non Alaska residents" have no incentive to comply with the sanctions levied by the criminal justice system.

Law enforcement efforts directed at compliance with wildlife regulations remains a high priority with the Board of Game. Joining the interstate Wildlife Violator Compact will send a strong message that the State of Alaska does not tolerate serious wildlife violations.

Thank you for your work on this important piece of legislation. Please let us know how we can assist you with this effort.

Sincerely,



Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Board of Game

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

2/19/08

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ALASKA LEGISLATIVE OUTDOOR CAUCUS

February 7, 2008

The Honorable Craig Johnson
Alaska State House
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Johnson:

We are writing to convey our support for HB 267, a bill to allow Alaska to join other states in entering into a Wildlife Violator Compact WVC. As this legislation provides for improved enforcement of conservation laws and regulations through reciprocal agreements with partner states, we believe this legislation to be a good first step for our newly formed Legislative Outdoor Heritage Caucus (LOHC).

It is the goal of the LOHC to promote conservation and the traditions of hunting, fishing and trapping. Legislation such as the WVC helps us fulfill that goal. If we can assist you in any way to ensure the passage of this legislation, please don't hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,


Speaker of the House
John Harris


Senate President
Lyda Green

Johnson 11/11/07

2/19/08

Inter-state poacher watch extends Alaska's reach

By REP. CRAIG JOHNSON

Recent news coverage of Alaska's big game hunting, some good and some bad, highlights the need for better communication and cooperation with other states to ensure poachers do not go unpunished.

I read with both pride and dismay a story from Anchorage about poachers being brought to justice for illegally taking our big game. Pride because our Alaska wildlife troopers did their job and did it well, but with dismay at the fact that the two men involved will undoubtedly be viewed as hunters. They are not, and for once the *Anchorage Daily News* got it right in the headline by calling them poachers.



Johnson

This calculated criminal act and others like it, unfortunately, are all too common here, and all the harder to enforce, thanks to the sheer size of our state. However, there is one valuable way we can change the dynamic and start bringing forces to bear on those who illegally take and waste our fish and game: The Wildlife Violator Compact, or WVC. I am working on a bill that would bring our state into the WVC fold and allow greater effectiveness and efficiency in the state's wildlife enforcement efforts.

Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon initiated the Wildlife Violator Compact in 1989 to give their wildlife enforcement officers a way to cross-reference violators from other states. It allows license revocations associated with the crimes committed in any compact-member state to be enforced in all compact-member states including the violator's home state. Previously, the risk of hunting illegally was simply getting caught.

The out-of-state violator could return home and fail to appear at arraignment, adding a burden to law enforcement and the court system in tracking violators down for extradition. With the WVC, if an out-of-state poacher fails to appear in court for a violation committed in Alaska, state wildlife agents could enter the violation into the WVC database, which would revoke the violator's hunting or fishing license in all compact-member states until the violator appeared to face the charges.

In addition to greatly increasing the communication between enforcement agencies, the WVC allows for hunting or fishing license revocations in member states to be transferred, meaning violators from out of state who commit serious wildlife crimes in Alaska would also have their home state licenses revoked. This change alone brings more offenders to justice by bringing the same sanctions on their home state hunting and fishing privileges as those in the state where the violation occurred.

The significant deterrent is that violators won't be able to ignore the citation or summons. The license revocations will cross state lines, forcing them to cooperate to ensure their home state status won't be compromised.

Currently, 26 states are members. Fifteen more are in the process of approving legislation or are awaiting enrollment in the WVC. At present a database of more than 4,100 violators exists that Alaska wildlife troopers can search through when processing citations or when an applicant

applies for a hunting or fishing license in Alaska. Information sharing also means that instead of tracking down poachers who fail to appear, or working on extradition proceedings, enforcement officers can spend more time in the field patrolling and making arrests, thus minimizing unnecessary paperwork.

The respective chairmen of the boards of Fish and Game support this legislation, saying: "The WVC sends a clear message that we value our fish and wildlife resources, and are serious about protecting them." Chairmen Cliff Judkins of the Board of Game and Mel Morris of the Board of Fish also wrote that: "Passage of this legislation will provide a strong deterrence for the commission of serious fish and wildlife crimes in Alaska, and will remain a priority of the two boards."

I believe that vigilance, state-of-the-art tools, and inter-governmental cooperation are highly effective measures that will keep our state as a world-class destination for big game hunting and wildlife viewing. By Alaska's participation in the WVC, poachers who disregard our laws will no longer return home and ignore our legal system.

Craig Johnson is a Republic member of the Alaska House representing District 28 (Southwest Anchorage).

<http://www.voiceofthetimes.net>