

ACT 142

H.B. NO. 1021

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the interstate wildlife violator compact is a multistate agreement that promotes the enforcement of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife-related regulations across jurisdictions. For example, the interstate wildlife violator compact could prevent wildlife violators who have lost their hunting, fishing, trapping, or other wildlife related privileges in other member states from obtaining a hunting license in Hawaii. Similarly, persons who have been punished with license revocation in Hawaii would be unable to avoid this punishment by engaging in those activities in another state. The interstate wildlife violator compact also establishes a process by which non-resident wildlife law violators can be treated as state residents for purposes of law enforcement, thereby easing the administrative burden on the enforcement agency and reducing enforcement gaps that may allow the violator to fail to comply with the terms of the citation. Reciprocity agreements such as the interstate wildlife violator compact are an important part of any law enforcement effort.

Furthermore, existing member states to the interstate wildlife violator compact have reported little to no added costs or administrative burdens associated with participating in the compact. The information system that facilitates participation is available for free to member states.

The legislature further finds that the interstate wildlife violator compact is modeled after the successful multistate driver license compact and nonresident violator compact. Hawaii is party to both compacts. Forty-eight states have passed legislation necessary to join the interstate wildlife violator compact.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of land and natural resources to become a member of the interstate wildlife violator compact or similar agreement.

SECTION 2. Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§183D- Interstate wildlife violator compact. (a) The department may enter into the interstate wildlife violator compact or similar agreement, whether in the form of a memorandum of understanding, written agreement, or mutual aid compact, with an appropriate state, federal, or foreign entity for mutual assistance in the enforcement of hunting, fishing, and other wildlife laws, rules, or regulations in their respective jurisdictions.

(b) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary to implement this section.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 30, 2021.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.