

PA13-248

SB1020

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VETO
SESSION**

**VOL.56
PART 31
10451 - 10795**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

542
June 5, 2013

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Adoption	74
Those voting aye	146
Those voting nay	0
Absent and not voting	4

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes in concurrence with the Senate. Will the Clerk please call Calendar 659.

THE CLERK:

Calendar number 659, favorable report of the joint standing Committee on Government, Administration and Elections, Senate Bill 1020, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Mr. Speaker, I urge --

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Do you move?

REP. GENTILE (104th):

I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's --

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Good bill. Ought to pass.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Well -- the question is acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, Madam?

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Good bill. Ought to pass.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madam. Would you care to remark further on the bill that's before us? Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good bill. Ought to pass.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Mr. Speaker, I move that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar without objection.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The motion is to move this item, Senate Bill 1020
to the Consent Calendar. Is there objection? So
ordered. Will the Clerk please call Calendar 388.

THE CLERK:

On page 12, Calendar 388 favorable report of the
joint standing Committee on Commerce, Senate Bill 10 -
- 1006, AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITTING ACCOUNTABILITY.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Perone.

REP. PERONE (137th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to move for
adoption and put it on Consent. Through you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

No. No. Move acceptance of the joint
committee's favorable report, Sir.

REP. PERONE (137th):

Mr. Speaker, I move -- I move for acceptance of
the joint committee's favorable report and passage of
the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is acceptance of the joint
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.
Will you remark, Sir?

REP. PERONE (137th):

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Nine four.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Nine four previously designated as Senate A.

THE CLERK:

Senate Amendment A, substitute Senate Bill 158,
LCO 5894.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

I move adoption.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we did not --

THE CLERK:

-- introduced by Senator Williams.

REP. URBAN (43rd):

Five eight nine four, I move adoption.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

No. PT this. I mean I would request that.

Whatever you want to do.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is -- the question is PT. Without
objection so ordered. Clerk please call -- will the
Clerk please call Calendar 659. Six five nine. Yeah.

THE CLERK:

Bill number 1020, Bill number 1006, 963, 878,
964, 833, 383, 900, Senate Joint 58, 1163, 1079, 709,

1040, 326, 803, 886, 1065, 983, 190 and 158 on the
Consent Calendar.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative -- Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Mr. Speaker, I move adoption of the Consent
Calendar.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Staff and guests to the well of the House.

Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.
Open the board, Mr. Clerk. Open the board for the
Consent Calendar. Staff and guests to the well of the
House. Members take your seats. The machine will be
opened for the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will
members please come to the well of the Chamber please.
The House is voting immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members
voted? Members please check the board to make sure
your vote is properly cast. If all the members have
voted the machine will be locked and the Clerk will

take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the Consent Calendar, Mr. Speaker.

Total Number Voting 146

Necessary for Adoption 74

Those voting aye 146

Those voting nay 0

Absent and not voting 4

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill -- or the Consent Calendar passes.

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Mr. Majority Leader.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Mr. Speaker, I move we adjourn sine die.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The motion is to adjourn sine die. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

(On motion of Representative Aresimowicz of the 30th District, the House adjourned at 12:02 o'clock a. m.,

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SENATE**

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THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President, as the first item if we might call instead Calendar Page 47 under Matters Returned, Calendar 483, Senate Bill 1020.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 47, Calendar 483, Senate Bill Number 1020, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT, Favorable Report of the Committee on Environment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I move acceptance of the Committee's Joint and Favorable Report and move passage of this bill.

THE CHAIR:

On acceptance and passage will you remark, sir?

SENATOR MEYER:

I would very briefly. Colleagues there is an interstate wildlife violator compact. I think there are now 38 states of the 50 states that are members of this compact and what this bill does is Connecticut becomes the 39th state to be a compact member. What being a compact member means is that there will be reciprocal information between the states concerning

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people who -- who violate -- violate our wildlife laws, rules, regulations and licenses.

For example, supposing a person in -- in Arkansas who has been guilty of -- of killing an endangered species in Arkansas which is also an endangered species in Connecticut, that person would be subject to -- to discipline in Connecticut as well through an exchange of information between the states.

So the compact is really a sharing and cooperation between the states in order to discipline those people who abuse and violate our wildlife regulations and laws.

So that's -- that's what the bill does and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection believes that Connecticut will be helped by joining this compact and I urge your support.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, some questions to the proponent through you, please.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

On these reciprocal offenses, would they actually have to be in each state's statutes in exactly the same way?

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Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, they would actually have to be a violation of Connecticut law in order -- in order to -- to discipline someone from another state who comes in here. In other words, if it -- if you were killing an endangered species in Arkansas but that was not an endangered species in Connecticut and the person kills -- the Arkansas resident comes into Connecticut and kills that animal that's not an endangered species in Connecticut, that would not be a violation of our law under this -- under the compact provisions.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again, through you, so it would be all wildlife, all hunting and fishing laws, not just endangered species laws?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, that's exactly right. It -- it relates to all hunting, fishing and trapping law -- license laws. Trapping is also included.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

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SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again through you, so if -- if I were to be in Arkansas and perhaps fishing without a license, that information would then get reported back to the State of Connecticut and I assume if I were in Arkansas I would need an out-of-state license. If I had a license -- a Connecticut fishing license, would I be in violation of the law?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, no you -- you would not be in violation of the law if you had a Connecticut fishing license in that instance.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So I -- I guess I'm not understanding the benefit in doing something like that. So it would -- is any violation from any state within the compact reported back to the -- any other state within the compact?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

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Yes the -- the purpose of this compact, as set forth in the compact, is an exchange of information between the states which are members of the compact. In our case the information would come in to the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again through you, would that -- would the sharing of such information would that require state resources?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

If we had a -- if we -- I -- the only way our resources would be used would be if we had a violator of our wildlife regulations -- laws and regulations, we would have to publish that in a manner that would be of -- the information would be available to the other states which are members of the compact. So there would be some publishing costs which I assume would be very nominal.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR MEYER:

On -- on-line costs.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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Again through you, so the only time the information would be shared with the other states is if a violation occurred. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. -- Mr. President, yes that is correct.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again through you, and did I understand that you said this would all be done electronically, the sharing of this information?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

That -- that -- through you, Mr. President, that is the intent of this bill --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR MEYER:

-- and this compact.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again through you, is the gentleman aware is there some sort of a -- a website where this information gets posted to and we would then have to check that or somehow be notified?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, I'm just looking at Rob LaFrance for an answer on that and he's not sure whether or not there is a website but we'd be happy to provide that information to you. Hopefully there will be.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And -- and again through you, I'm trying to get a handle on the amount of resources that would be expended if somebody were to violate a statute in Arkansas and share that with the State of Connecticut. I'm trying to get an understanding as to how that notification actually occurs here.

Again through you, Mr. President, does each agency within every state then have to designate somebody to receive the information of those violations?

Through you, Mr. President.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

The bill -- through you, Mad -- Mr. President, the bill just provides that there has to be an agency that's designated and in the case of Connecticut the agency is DEEP is designated.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again through you, and is the reverse true if it is -- if the State of Arkansas is a member of this compact, then a violation occurs in Connecticut, so somebody within our agency would then have to notify all designated agencies in all 38 other states?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes through you, Mr. President, that is the intent of this. This is an interstate compact and the sharing of information is the -- is the real crux of this bill and this compact.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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And -- and again through you, so the information would be shared when a violation occurs in Arkansas it would be shared with our agency, our DEEP here in Connecticut, and they would then check to see whether such a violation would be -- such an action would be a violation here as well?

I'm -- I'm still not quite understanding the purpose behind having this compact or entering into it.

I guess through you, Mr. President. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yeah through you, Mr. President, to Senator Chapin, legal staff has just informed me that there is a central database here which is used by all the states that are members and he says that there are now actually 44 states. We'd be the 45th state to join the compact.

And the -- the purpose of this compact, to get to your last question, Senator Chapin, is, through you, Mr. President, is that if -- if people come into Connecticut from other states who have been violators of -- of our hunting, fishing and trapping laws, as for example killing a -- an animal that's an endangered species in our state and if he's convicted of killing that same endangered species in another state, we'd like to know about it.

We'd like to stop that crime. We'd like to stop that kind of misconduct and that's what the interstate compact -- that's the benefit it gives us.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

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And again through you, so if somebody were to kill an endangered species, and I -- I don't mean to pick on Arkansas, I think that was your original example, but if somebody killed an endangered species in Arkansas and then moved to Connecticut, if this bill were to pass and we entered into this compact, would -- does current law give the Commissioner the authority not to perhaps issue a hunting license in a situation like that?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes through you, Mr. President, that -- that is the purpose of this compact is that in that instance where there was a violation in -- in another state of something that is a violation of law in Connecticut, our Commissioner would not issue a license.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again through you, so in my example it was if the person moved into the state, if the person were just visiting the state I assume there would be some provision under current law that would allow some temporary hunting license. Would the person also be prohibited from obtaining a -- a temporary license?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

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I don't think the compact cov -- covers that situation, through you, Mr. President, where -- because your -- your -- have a hypothetical where instead of the person coming as a visitor and hunting in Connecticut, the person has actually moved -- moved to Connecticut and so that person, as a new resident of Connecticut, would be subject to all the laws and regulations with respect to hunting, fishing and trapping that we have in Connecticut.

I don't know that -- that the prior violation in another state would -- would stop the license in Connecticut by someone who moved here and became a valid resident of Connecticut. I would imagine there would be some discretion on the Commissioner's part with respect to that decision.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And again through you, several years ago we passed a marine fisheries license requirement. It was my understanding at the time the -- the federal government was requiring us to do this otherwise they were going to have a registry of their own.

Can the gentleman tell me if the compact speaks to that very issue in states which may actually have enacted a similar licensing requirement versus states that didn't?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, the compact does not speak explicitly to any particular license. Does -- for example it doesn't speak to -- to the marine license

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that as you well point out was required by the federal government because of a registration requirement. It doesn't speak that specifically. It speaks to all hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

And I thank the gentleman for his answers.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

You know while we were talking about this bill earlier today I thought I understood it but having heard the recent dialogue between Senator Meyer and Senator Chapin I think I got a little -- a little confused and this is a really important issue to me and the district that I represent, the 31st District, as we have a number of fish and game, rod and gun clubs in the district, a number of sportsmen, hunters, fishermen who take this very, very seriously and so I need to I think proceed with caution when I talk about potentially entering into or agreeing to enter into a compact with other states that -- that might -- that might endanger at least their -- their leisure.

I know for instance a good friend of my kids she and her dad they often travel out-of-state to hunt, whether it be New York or Pennsylvania or Vermont and New Hampshire and I've heard some pretty interesting stories about her first kill, as it were. So the even -- they even go out as far as Ohio actually.

So the -- the very thought that one might run afoul of potentially a law in another state and that might then impede upon their ability to maintain a license here in this state is one of -- of big concern especially because, you know, when you travel out-of-state to hunt, I forget the name of -- of the Latin phrase, but essentially we're all - we're all endued with -- we're -- it's all imputed to us to have a knowledge of the laws within the jurisdiction with which we're doing something.

So if I'm hunting in Ohio I'd better know the laws of Ohio but the reality is very different. A lot of people aren't going to be conscious totally of whatever, you know, the rules might be or the species.

So if I may, through you, Mr. President, I do have a few questions to the proponent of -- of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So as -- just listening to the discussion back and forth it seems to me that there might be a number of situations where one could run afoul of this statute and -- and then potentially have repercussions here in the State of Connecticut.

And it sounds like both of those -- or all of those kind of fall into two large subsets. Subset number one being say somebody who lives in Ohio might offend an Ohio law, assuming Ohio is part of this compact, which I think they are, and someone -- the other subset might be somebody from the State of Connecticut who is traveling outside of the State of Connecticut and hunting there and -- and run afoul.

So I guess the first question is it -- is it safe to say that if you're a hunter in Connecticut and you violate a hunting law in another state so long as that state is within this compact, then you would run the

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risk of some kind of -- of punishment here in the State of Connecticut?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, that is not -- not correct, Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Okay.

SENATOR MEYER:

The -- to -- to have that Ohio resident as you're referring to be guilty in Connecticut, that Ohio resident would -- would have to have done some -- something that is also in violation of Connecticut -- Connecticut law, not something that's in violation of Ohio law.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Meyer. I -- I guess maybe I should kind of back up and ask maybe even a more global question and that is what -- what are the kinds of laws that would risk running a -- one could risk running afoul of which then could lead to consequences with respect to your Connecticut licenses?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, oh there are just a myriad of them. Through you, Mr. President, they relate for example to the legal hunting seasons. They would relate to the fact that right now, although there is a bill that will change that, shooting a bow and arrow on Sunday to -- shooting deer on Sunday with a bow and arrow, it's not allowed right now.

It would relate to, you know, the -- what the license provisions have for -- for fishing and trapping. What animals can be lawfully fished and what animals could lawfully be trapped. We passed a bill I think it was last week with respect to violations of fishing for catching certain fish.

So we have just a myriad of -- of hunting, fishing and trapping -- trapping laws that a person from another state coming here could violate and get into trouble because of a -- of a prior problem in the same area in that person's other -- other person's state -- own state.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So I -- I guess it's safe to say that if any state has a law that regulates game -- I know you and Senator Chapin were talking a bit about endangered species, but we're -- we're beyond endangered species.

We're talking about when hunting season begins, when hunting season ends, when fishing season begins, when fishing season ends, the type of game you can -- you can go after, the types of weapons you can use as you go after that game within the various seasons.

If you offend any one of those laws, then when you come back to the State of Connecticut or if you're an Ohio person who now moves to the State of Connecticut

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and you might have lost your license in Ohio, that this compact then allows DEEP to pursue remedies or to pursue prosecution of you with respect to whatever administrative remedy they might have available to them. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, that -- that is correct. I -- I should also add something that I didn't mentioned before and that is that under the compact there is a board of administrators and every member state has a representative on that board, designated in this situation by the Commissioner of DEEP here in Connecticut.

So there is overall oversight by -- by an -- an interstate board of administrators and -- but of course we're looking at individual violations of individual hunting, fishing and trapping laws of Connecticut.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Meyer. I mean that -- that -- that concerns me a bit especially given the people that I represent although I guess I draw some comfort in the fact that you said 44 states have also entered this compact. I believe the compact came about in the 80s. I -- I don't know if Senator Meyer knows when the original compact came to be?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

I don't have any -- through you, Mr. President, I don't have any direct knowledge. Some -- somehow 1997 comes to mind but I -- I can't tell you that -- that's what comes to mind.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

That's fine, that -- that's fair, I can understand that. Do we -- do you know, obviously Connecticut is late to the game, no pun intended, and I believe that there are four -- or I guess it would be five other states potentially if 44 is correct, is -- is there a reason for this hesitation at least from -- that you might have personal knowledge of with respect to the State of Connecticut? Why are we talking about this now? Why weren't we talking about it in 1997 or if indeed it was the 80s -- the late 80s?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, I -- I think it was Rob LaFrance who came to the Environment Committee in January and gave us this bill and said it was a priority for DEEP because we were late in joining. The -- the Commissioner himself testified at the public hearing in strong support of -- of entering this compact.

So I don't think there was any opposition to it at all and I would think it would be in the -- in the best

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interests of Connecticut to be a member of this compact.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Now if I could just turn to some of the specific language in the bill and through you, Mr. President, I'm looking at lines 261 to 262 of the file copy which it says that this compact shall become effective when it has been adopted by at least two states.

I'm assuming, through you, Mr. President, and hopefully Senator Meyer can confirm this, that -- that that's really surplusage. We're not looking for two additional states. We're actually referring to the 44 states and, in fact, we're not going to be waiting for anybody else in order for this compact to be effective here in the State of Connecticut.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes, to Senator Welch, through you, Mr. President, this of course is the original language of the compact when it was first enacted and it was not going to become effective by its own terms until at least two states adopted it. We're long past that.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

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SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Then if I may turn to lines 323 to 331 which have a little bit of confusion for me. In the -- beginning on lines 323 to 327 in the penalty section of this bill we talk that the -- well we say that the Commissioner may suspend a Connecticut hunting, fishing or trapping license if somebody is convicted of a wildlife violation in a state that's a party to this contract.

And then in lines 328 we say that no person whose license, privilege, or right to hunt, or fish or trap, et cetera, having been suspended or revoked shall be issued a -- a new license. So I just want to be sure, for purposes the legislative intent, that it is actually possible to have a violation but not to have your license pulled and that what the statute is really saying here is that if you lost your license in another state, well then you're not going to be able to get your license in this state. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yeah through -- through you, there is of course in -- in the language that -- that you're -- you're quoting, Senator Welch, some discretion on the part of the Commissioner to suspend or revoke a license and -- and I might tell you that distinguished counsel has just advised me that this compact was first enacted in 1989 so my recollection of 1997 was erroneous.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR MEYER:

But I think the language speaks for itself here.

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SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Now I understand that an individual, if they receive notice from DEEP that they've had a violation, that they have an ability to request a hearing. I'm curious as to what potential avenues they have to contest DEEP's decision beyond that hearing should they lose their license with -- during that process.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yeah through you, Mr. President, the -- the bill and the compact is quite specific with respect to the grounds for getting a hearing and it's -- it's set -- it's set forth in there. There -- you know there's going to have to be a showing of burden of proof that there was a conviction in a member state.

The conviction must be of a similar violation to the -- to the laws and rules of the home state and there's got to be a showing that the person who failed to comply with the terms of wildlife violation citation in the member state. So the grounds for a hearing are set forth in the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

And I appreciate Senator Meyer's response. I -- I guess I wasn't so concerned with respect to the grounds for the hearing but what comes after the hearing when I look at line 359 to 361 of the bill it says that a suspension of the license and the decision of the Commissioner or hearing officer shall not be appealable.

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Does that mean that after one's license is suspended they could not go to the Connecticut Superior Court and get a review of the Commissioner's decision?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

After a hearing and -- and a decision by the Commissioner, this compact says that that Commissioner's decision is final and nonappealable.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I -- I've got to say I -- that that gives me great pause and a lot of concern and we have a great tradition of administrative law, not only in this state, but in the State of Connecticut that when an agency makes a decision there almost always is a route available to that potentially aggrieved person to have that decision heard or appealed.

I've got a lot of respect for DEEP and those that work there. I appreciate Mr. LaFrance in -- in bringing this issue to our attention because I think there is merit to -- and warrants discussion but at the end of the day we've all heard stories of agency officials -- of agency decision-makers getting it wrong. We're all -- we're all human. Nobody is perfect and -- and in -- the great history of this country, even before administrative law really took shape because administrative law really didn't -- didn't come about until our federal government started ballooning, but we always had an out, we always had a way to appeal a decision.

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And if in fact what Senator Meyer says here is that the agency's decision is final but it's not only final for the purposes of having an appeal to a Superior Court, it's final and that's it, I think that's problematic.

I -- I also am a bit concerned with some of the other bills that have been brought up in this -- in this building and the message that we're sending with this bill, in conjunction with those other bills, for instance we -- the House just passed a bill on giving licenses to illegal aliens and I believe that there is in that bill an exception -- or excuse me you can't get a license if you're a felon in Connecticut but it says nothing about being a felon in another state.

And yet what we're doing here is we're saying if you have infringed upon some law in another state, well we're going to say that you can't take or reap the benefits of being a hunter or a fisher in the State of Connecticut.

I thank Senator Meyer for -- I thank Senator Meyer for -- for bringing this bill to our attention -- bringing the issue to our attention because it truly is important. I mean we don't want to encourage those who are violating laws in other states with respect to hunting and fishing to find safe haven here in the State of Connecticut.

But I think there are some inconsistencies with this bill. I -- I hope I hear something different as the debate goes on with respect to the ability to appeal a commissioner's decision because that is problematic for me on a -- on a fundamental basis.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I had the opportunity in the past like ten or fifteen minutes or so to sit down and read the -- the bill. We -- we discussed it in Caucus briefly so I had a vague understanding but as I had the opportunity to read the bill I think I have more questions than I -- than I do thoughts and those were formulated through some of the discussions that came out from some of the previous speakers.

So through you, Mr. President, I'd like to ask the proponent of the bill several questions.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

Through you, Mr. President, to Senator Meyer, you said that the -- the compact was in the 19 -- in the late 80s I guess, I don't have the exact date when it was first formulated.

SENATOR WELCH:

1989.

SENATOR WITKOS:

And I read in the section that either one or more party states have the right to go forward with an amendment and are you, through you, Mr. President, are you aware of any amendments that have been proposed since the compact was first introduced in 1989?

Through you, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. Pres -- Mr. President, I am not.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So I guess was there any testimony done at the hearing as to how often an amendment may be -- or has been brought before the compact states?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, there was no such testimony.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Great and so I'm going to go through the bill. A couple of things I -- I just had some questions on. Line number 11 it says wildlife resources are managed in trust by, now the resources are -- are those the animals that we're talking about? I know that we define what wildlife is later on in the bill but resources is -- is not cash. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

I'm sorry I didn't understand the question.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

I'll rephrase it. Oftentimes we talk about resources of things as being of cash value but here later on in the bill it defines what a -- what wildlife means and that's certain types of fish, certain types of mammals and crustaceans and blah, blah, blah.

So under line 11 wildlife resources that is not a cash or -- or monetary value. Is that -- am I correct?

Through that -- through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, no it is not.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

And do we have a -- a defined means of communicating to the various states on how we would proceed in that manner or what is the common way that you would communicate any violations to the other party states?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

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Through -- through you, Mr. President, we would communicate through the board of administrators of the compact and our own designee, the designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

So how would that work if -- if I was a law enforce -- conn -- Connecticut environmental officer and I found somebody that was -- was trapping in our state that didn't have a license to do so and they happen to be a resident from another state, I could issue them a citation and then, if we were a member of the compact, then do we -- does the compact, the administrator, get the information electronically and then they forward that over? How -- how does that person that I cite go from the site of the violation to the other states if you could define that process.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

As I mentioned before in answer to I think it was Senator Welch's or Senator Chapin's question, it's done through a central database which is available to all the member states, all 45 -- 44 now.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

And through you, do we know if all the other states have upgraded that central database because we've

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talked in -- in other terms on other issues here in our -- in this Circle where we're a member of a database system and we just can't get the other states to input that data so we don't necessarily know that they are.

Have you -- do you know, through you, Mr. President, whether all the other states have that data up to date?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, I have no understanding whatsoever with respect to what's happening in the other states.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

And -- and through you, sir, would this be an automatic transfer from our own system to this database or would we have to hire personnel to manually input that data?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, I'm -- I'm advised that there's a central database that's available to all members of the compact so that would be currently 44 members of the compact. Thirty-nine members, by the way, are set forth in the OLR report.

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Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I haven't seen the OLR report. I'm just going by the -- the bill here that's before me. As a former law enforcement officer I'm always protective of the roles and rights that -- and practice that we've -- we've done so I -- on lines 43 through 45 it -- it speaks of somebody who was given a citation that they're permitted just to take the citation and continue to -- on your way immediately.

There's nothing in -- that -- that would bar the officer from detaining them for another reason is there?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Well that -- that depends on the rest of the -- of the -- of the laws -- the penal laws of Connecticut.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Other than the alleged --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

Thank you.

Other than the alleged violation if it was a wildlife violation.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

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SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, I'm just not an authority on that in Connecticut.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

If -- in lines 70 through 73 how would we know if each state treats their offenses differently? For example, somebody out -- out west, and I'm not going to use the state that begins with an A, they -- they don't believe that that's as a severe or as an egregious crime as maybe we do here in New England but they set their fine at \$150 and it happened to be our resident and our fine may only be \$35.

And the person says well you have my -- or they skip the state, they come home. They were out on a vacation and they agree to pay Connecticut's fine. Is that -- how -- how does -- is there a way to work out that discrepancy between a Connecticut fine versus another state's fine?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

The compact -- through you, Mr. President, the compact does not provide any -- any particular mechanism for doing that. There is, as I mentioned before, a board of administrators which could hear those kinds of issues.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

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How would you treat something if it -- in our state if somebody is issued a citation and they just don't answer it, then a criminal charge occurs for failure to pay or plea? If that some scenario happens in a -- a compact state where the person just doesn't do anything and there is now a criminal charge, is that reciprocal also to our state for failure to pay and plea now that they've committed a -- a violation of our penal code?

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

-- that's -- that's a major benefit of this kind of an interstate compact is it would permit reciprocity and it would permit returning someone to Connecticut who left at going back to his or her home state after committing a violation of Connecticut law.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

And who would be responsible for the payment if -- if there's a -- oftentimes you have to get that -- you have to do an extradition order in order to go retrieve somebody to bring them back into the state. Are you saying that this would be an automatic extradition because we're a member of a compact state now?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

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Through you, Mr. President, I have no Connecticut law legal opinion on that issue.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

So if somebody were to commit a crime -- or commit a violation in the State of Connecticut and they had their -- they paid their fine and at what point can the person be -- have their license revoked or suspended? Could you go through that process? Is it an automatic license suspension or revocation or is it if they plead not guilty and that's the way it's worked out?

Through you, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

In terms of this being an interstate transaction with somebody coming from another state, the bill is very clear. It sets up a procedure and process for making a charge, for serving that charge and then the person charged is able to have a -- a hearing and make argument and produce evidence before the Commissioner's staff and the Commissioner reaches a decision and that is the final part of the process.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

Through you, to Senator Meyer, where would an individual go to get a permit to do many of the

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activities that are governed underneath the -- the compact?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, Rob LaFrance tells me that you get your permit by going to the offices of DEEP.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

So if I were to go and get a fishing license, I would go to the office of DEEP to get a fishing license?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

I -- I guess I'll rephrase that question. Oftentimes, as we approach fishing day, there are many different businesses that give out hunting or fishing -- hunting licenses through your town hall and you can go to maybe a store that is located on a -- on a riverbed

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that I -- I think is authorized by the state to give out a license.

So I'm just trying to figure out, through you, Mr. President, where one might have to go to get -- we'll just stick to fishing at this point, a fishing license.

Through you, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, you can get a fishing license at DEEP or you can get it online. I think I have a fishing license in my pocket and I think I got it through the captain of a chartered boat in Guilford.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So there's many different sources where you can get a particular license and I guess that's where I'm going. If your privilege is suspended out of state because you -- you've done something there and Connecticut is now a member of the compact state, is that license necessarily on a -- a list somewhere? So like our driver's license I would -- I could call up and say could you check the status of John Doe, is their license up for suspension?

Are all of our licenses in a database?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, I don't know the answer to that question.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Herein lies the difficulty ladies and gentlemen. If we're joining a compact that says we offer a -- a reciprocity between the states, we've just heard that we don't even know if we have a database where we know people have a hunting license, a fishing license, a trapping license.

So how if another state says we're going to suspend that, how do we do that? Do we have to go to Len's Clam Shack down the street to check his books to see if they have a fishing license or should we go over to -- to Joe's Trapping Company down in the -- the end of the woods?

We -- we don't have a central database from what I've heard so far where they are kept. So it's almost impossible to double-check to make sure that no violations are occurring.

And I'm going to ask the question of further reading along in the book it talks about -- in the bill that you -- if you don't have the -- the cash and you're stopped for a violation of the state, you can provide collateral.

Now through collateral, we define collateral in line 96 to 97 means any cash or other security deposit 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.

Now having spent 28 years in law enforcement, I never carried a receipt book. So is -- is this what we're

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asking our -- our wildlife and law enforcement officers to do now if the person -- to make sure that they comply from another state that we have to give them a receipt to give us collateral?

And how does one go about asking for collateral? Do they say well we want to assure that you make an appearance in court so do you have any cash on you? I'll give you a receipt. That is a dangerous slippery slope that we're -- we're asking our law enforcement officials to become part of by definition in the compact.

I further have concerns where it says the state individually can define what is wildlife because the definitions of wildlife vary from state to state. So how can one individual, as someone had alluded to earlier on a -- on a vacation or a -- a hunting trip or fishing trip, know what each of the individual wildlife issues are in that particular state that they are in?

I think we're asking a lot for the recreational sportsman that just wants to go out, has paid to have their license, has -- has done everything by the book as far as they know, yet this one little quirky thing in some state that says well we don't consider that wildlife or now we do consider that wildlife where in all other 44 states it's not considered wildlife. I don't think that's fair for the -- for the folks that partake in these type of activities.

Personal recognizance is acceptable as a form of -- of saying that you'll -- you'll -- you can be let go by the law enforcement officer and I'm assuming that personal recognizance is I -- I promise I'll be there but I'm not so sure.

One of the things that I had some concerns about also in the bill is, through you, Mr. President, a couple more questions to Senator Meyer, if I may.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR WITKOS:

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Thank you.

Through you, Mr. -- Mr. President, how often do the board of states meet?

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, there's no --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

-- there's no provision with respect to the number of meetings by the board of administrators.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you.

I -- I thought I read somewhere in here, through you, Mr. President, that they meet annually and if I can find it -- when the boards meet, Mr. President, or if they do meet, through you, Mr. President, do we have -- are the meetings done on a rotational basis or is there one particular state that happens to be the home -- the host state for the meeting for the board?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, Article 7 sets out the -- the powers and responsibilities of the board of administrators and I don't believe it -- it identifies where -- where the board meetings will have to take place.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I found the section that I was -- was referring to and -- and the Senator -- the good Senator is correct in that they'll elect their chairman annually. But I have a concern that any type of change has to be done in person.

So not only will you have 44 individuals traveling to some unknown location, there's also an unknown expense and I don't know if this is the time that, especially in the State of Connecticut when we're going to be discussing a -- a budget fairly soon in this Chamber, to be talking about unknown expenses.

And honestly for a personal junket for somebody to go out to talk about one -- one change and one state -- one state can bring forward an amendment to the compact, one or more.

So if somebody wants a vacation out to Arkansas, well let's propose an amendment. Let's bring everybody out and we'll have a vote. Not everybody voted, yeah it passed. All right well who wants to bring one up next year or -- or six months from now? Let's bring up another amendment to the compact. All 44 states, here we go again, get on the plane, go down for a couple of days, have a vote again.

And this is like another bill we talk -- we talked about in the Chamber about condominiums. If you don't vote, you're counted in the affirmative.

And we talk about a slippery slope as I mentioned earlier. There's some language in here that disturbs me that the compact can accept equipment, money, grants, supplies, materials, services, conditional or otherwise, from any state, United States, or any governmental agency and you can do with it whatever you want. You can get rid of it whenever you want or dispose of it anyway you want.

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And then the board of compact administrators well they can accept services from government or inter-government agencies, individuals, firms, corporations. Ladies and gentlemen this flies in the face of ethics that we're trying to make sure we hold to the highest degree here in the State of Connecticut.

This is a free-for-all. I certainly wouldn't want to be the administrator from Connecticut's name on this and I would think that they'd have to go get a -- an ethics board opinion to make sure it's okay. It's a dumping ground for contributions with no rules on how to spend it.

And we further erode the power and authority of the General Assembly because when we enter into this compact everything is divide -- decided by the compact. The only thing we can do is agree to get out. We can't change the rules in there. That's up to our designee and the rest of the board.

We can say at some point we don't want to be part of the compact anymore then it's the General Assembly's position to -- to take us out. But prior to that this board of compact can do whatever they want as long as currently the 44 administrators decide that that's the direction that they want to go.

So there's a lot of flaws and a lot of concerns and I hope we think long and hard, Mr. President, before we enter into such a compact.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Through you, I have a number of questions to the proponent of the bill.

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THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I really don't know a lot about hunting and fishing and trapping that -- that we talk about in this legislation so I do have a number of questions. I know I have a -- a great number of hunters in my district and we certainly have a lot of area for them to participate in this sport and I think it's very important that we provide them with that opportunity and make sure we're doing everything properly on their behalf.

So I have some questions in regard to this compact that we are talking about in this legislation. More specifically to the other states that are in this compact. I know in your remarks with Senator Welch, Senator Meyer, you talked about 39 other states that are in this compact.

So my question is in regard to the laws and -- well let's stick with that first. The laws within the 39 states of the compact, are they the same for every thir -- every member of those 39 states?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, asked and answered.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

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I'm sorry I didn't hear that. What was -- what was the answer?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer, repeat your answer please.

SENATOR MEYER:

The answer was asked and answered.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

I don't know what that means, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

I believe the Senator was saying that the question had been asked and he had provided an answer, Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

And is -- is the Senator willing to repeat that answer for me because I wouldn't have asked the question if I had known what the answer was.

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, yes there -- probably all 44 states that are currently members of the compact have different laws relating to hunting, fishing and trapping and -- and the licenses that are involved and the conduct that is involved.

I'm sure Connecticut's laws because -- particularly because we're on the -- on the shoreline of Long

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Island Sound are different than Ohio, for example, which is inland.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank Senator Meyer for that answer. I -- that's -- that's kind of what I was -- was looking for. I didn't hear the answer originally. But if all the laws are different, I guess where I'm going with this is there's something in here that talks about formulating uniform forms, uniform procedures, that type of thing?

And I'm curious what the reason for that is. Is that just for the -- the violators going back to the conversation you had with Senator Witkos or is that in regard to the laws that were created?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer. Senator Meyer, do you need Senator Kane to repeat his question?

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes please, yes please.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane, would you please repeat your question?

SENATOR KANE:

I would gladly repeat the question, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

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SENATOR KANE:

The question to Senator Meyer was going back to his original answer which was the laws in 39 states are different, and you even mentioned how the shorelines of Connecticut would be different from the -- the lands -- landlocked Ohios and -- and places like that, so my question to you, Senator Meyer, is it speaks in this bill about uniform forms and formulate uniform procedures.

So joining the compact is for that purpose or to have uniform laws for -- for the 39 or 40 members of this compact?

Through you.

Forty-four.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, yeah there -- the part that's uniform is -- is the procedures and process with respect to the relationships between the states, the sharing of a common database, for example. The fact that the -- the compact sets out rules for a hearing, what can be done at the hearing.

The fact that it provides that the decision of the Commissioner of the home state will be the final decision. Those are sort of things that are uniform but there's a great difference of course between the laws of the different states, how you might violate a law in Connecticut on the one hand versus how you might violate a law in the State of Connecticut. Indeed I'm sure the -- the laws with respect to hunting of deer are different in both states.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

But if the laws in 39, 40, 44, whatever the number is, pick a number, in each state are different, then why do we need a uniform process between states?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, because in a civilized society it just makes sense to have a -- uniform processes and procedures so that those procedures and processes are the same in all the member states.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Well, thank you, Mr. President.

But that would mean -- but I guess what I'm saying is if the laws aren't the same in each of those 40 states and, you know, Ohio has a different law as you mentioned than Connecticut versus a southern state versus a -- a western state, a mid-western state, maybe Hawaii has further states, Alaska has -- has different laws as well, so if the laws are going to be different and are okay to be different, than I don't understand where the civilized society needs uniform procedures to govern different laws. We're having a uniform policy for a different law I guess is the question.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

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SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, I'm not sure I understand the question but the fact is that this compact recognizes the different laws of the compact states but it also sets up uniform procedures so that -- that people who are charged with violations are treated with the same due process.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

So then this board -- thank you, Mr. President, is that of a punitive nature?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

The responsibilities, through you, Mr. President, of the board are administrative as -- as forth in -- in the compact.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Well thank you, Mr. President.

Actually that was going to be my next question in -- in regards to the makeup of the board. Are we talking about a new level of government that we are going to have?

Through you, Mr. President.

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Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, you know we -- we have very significant interstate compacts in America. The Uniform Commercial Code is an interstate compact that probably we couldn't really run our business lives without that interstate compact.

Treaties between nations enable us to live in a civilized way. We probably couldn't really survive without some of those treaties. So this compact fits right in in the tradition of important agreements among states to get some business done and to do it in an orderly and civilized way.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

What type of interstate compacts do we have?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

That -- that goes to a question of germaneness I think but I -- I -- I'm not going to chat about the forms of interstate compacts except, Senator Kane, just to say to you, through -- through Mr. President, that -- that we have many interstate compacts. They're the very essence of life in a -- in a federal system as we have and that if we didn't have these kind of interstate compacts like the one right before us, that we would -- we would be in trouble of being able to govern because people could go to -- to one state and commit something and not be caught.

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Cooperation between our states and the federal system really works very, very well and I think this bill goes in that direction.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I -- I only ask the question because you brought it up. So when, you know, when we talk about germaneness, it -- it was mentioned by yourself that we have many type of interstate compacts so I figured what other type of interstate compacts do we have in relation to -- to this. So why we would chose this interstate compact has relevance if we have other interstate compacts, so I was curious as to what type of other state -- interstate compacts we may have had.

When it talks about the administration, is -- this board I guess is that our board or their board that we are a participant of?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, it's neither.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

I'm sorry, I missed the answer, through you, Mr. President.

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Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

It is neither.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Then if it is neither, then I'm really confused because there is a creation of this administrative board so -- let's see if I could find it -- board of compact administrators. The compact creates a board of compact administrators to serve as the compact's governing body.

So my question was is -- is this board the compact's board or our board and you said neither so now -- now I'm really confused as to the makeup of this board.

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you -- through you, Mr. President, I think, Senator Kane, you didn't -- you didn't say it quite that way. You said is this our board or their board. This is by the terms that you just read, clearly set forth in Article 7 of the compact, this is board created by the member states to which each member state will have a representative who has one vote.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

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Thank you, Mr. President.

So Connecticut will have one vote on this board?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

If we approve the bill.

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

There -- in the fiscal note it says no fiscal impact but I'm curious because it also says that each state must keep records of violations. So are we able to do that through our own within Appropriations?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, I -- I would never be one to argue with OFA and they've said in their fiscal note that there is no fiscal consequence from this bill. So I accept that at face value.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I guess the reason I ask that is -- is do we need new software?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

I don't know.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Do we need more people to keep track of these actions? I mean are -- well let me -- let me take a step back. Are we recording these actions now?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, as far as I know we're not recording violations of people from other states who have committed violations in other states. As far as I know we're not recording anything of that kind. We're only -- we're only making a record of our residents, our legal residents, our legal citizens in Connecticut, who violate our hunting, fishing and trapping laws.

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Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So we are keeping track of the violations that happen within our own state.

Through you.

I wasn't -- because I wasn't quite sure because I think Senator Meyer said at first that we were not and then he said we are keeping track of Connecticut violations so I just want to clarify that if I may -- I -- I -- if -- if I may, through you.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, the answer --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

-- the answer is yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

So thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you for that clarification. So if we are to -- well let me ask you this. How many out-of-state hunters do we expect to come to Connecticut and, if so, how many violations do they expect that we would have to keep track of?

Through you, Mr. President.

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Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, as far as I know there's been no projection made as yet and probably there won't be any until if and when we pass this bill and join the compact.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Well that -- that's -- that's interesting because don't we already belong to a Northeast Compact?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

And thank you, Mr. President.

And through that Northeast Compact we're not keeping track of these same violations?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

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Through you, Mr. President, I don't know the answer to that question.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Huh, so if -- what's -- well let's ask this. What's wrong with the Northeast Compact that we are a member of?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, I don't -- I don't know what -- what is the matter with it. The -- clearly the compact bill that's in front of us is a much broader compact because the Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Compact only relates to three states and we're looking at something in which we're going to be joining the great majority of states in the United States to enforce our -- our wildlife laws.

So it's a very different concept between -- between this compact that we're looking at tonight and the -- and the Northeast Compact which is just three states, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Do we know if New Hampshire and Pennsylvania too are also are joining this compact?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, the OLR report gives the -- the names of the states on page 21 of the report if you want to look at it. It speaks for itself.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

It's kind of like the -- the breakup of the Big East, right, Mr. President? I mean all these states are -- are changing leagues it sounds like.

But it -- well I guess the reason for that question is if we leave this Northeast Conservation -- I'm sorry, Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Compact which contains the members Connecticut, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, that would leave only New Hampshire and Pennsylvania.

So my curiosity was to whether those two states were joining this compact as well.

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, yeah I -- I see that Pennsylvania has -- has joined this compact and what was the other -- the other state -- the other state was New Hampshire and New Hampshire, as far as we can tell from the OLR report, is not currently, not yet at least, a member of the com -- interstate compact.

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Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

It also speaks in here about the compact that we belong to that -- is the compact provides for cooperation and insis -- and assistance on enforcement of fisheries, wildlife and environmental laws among their participating states. Does that hold true in this new compact we will be entering into?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

Through you, Mr. President, yeah the essence of an interstate compact is just that kind of cooperation.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

And there -- thank you, Mr. President.

So there's nothing I guess fiscally that we have to worry about in participating with 40 other states versus the three state compact that we're currently involved with?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, all I can do is rely on the Office of Fiscal Analysis which says there's no fiscal impact to this bill.

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

When we talk about these violations and I guess if -- if -- first if you could give me an example of what a violation would be that we would have these type of concerns for this -- through this interstate compact.

Through you, Mr. -- Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, asked and answered at great length.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

I'm sorry, what was that, Mr. President?

THE CHAIR:

Can you repeat that again, Senator Meyer?

SENATOR MEYER:

Asked and answered at great length.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

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Thank you, Mr. President.

I guess I -- I missed a few answers from Senator Meyer and he's unwilling to repeat them for me.

My question then would be if there was that type of violation, then how -- what type of assistance would we need from the compact?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Mr. President, could -- could Senator Kane repeat that question?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane, would you mind repeating that question please?

SENATOR KANE:

Sure, of course, I would love to repeat.

The question was not knowing the violation because it was already given, but if there were a violation, what type of assistance could we get through the compact?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, the compact would give us the authority to -- to discipline someone who's come in from another state who has been -- been found guilty of a violation in his or her home state and -- and now is coming into Connecticut and repeating the same offense here.

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So if for example a person lost their fishing license in the State of Ohio because they did something illegal that's also illegal in Connecticut, we would be -- and they came to us asking for a hunting license in Connecticut during their two-week visit, our Commissioner, under the compact bill, would be entitled to deny that license.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Okay well let's say, through you, Mr. President, thank you, that -- for example I know it's come up and -- and certainly came up in Appropriations about pheasant stocking. I know in speaking to Representative Miner we had a bill about possible bear hunting. I know certainly there's a bill going on right now about Sunday hunting.

So my question, Mr. President, is let's say that someone from Ohio, going back to your example, comes to Connecticut and is -- okay are they supposed to be aware of the laws that we have here in Connecticut?

Through you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, certainly if someone comes to hunt and -- in -- in Connecticut from Ohio and seeks a hunting license from the State of Connecticut, that person has got to be familiar with, for example, the hunting season for the particular animal that's being sought, the kind of weapons that can be used, even the day of the week.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

So a hunting license then in -- is only good in Connecticut if you have a Connecticut license?

Through you, Mr. President, I'm not aware of that.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

So is it possible that this compact would allow reciprocity for hunters throughout the -- the states? Is -- is that part of this maybe or is it just -- does it just refer to violators?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Mr. President, the whole essence of this compact and the bill before us tonight is exactly that word you used reciprocity.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

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Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And I thank Senator Meyer for his answers. I appreciate it. I -- really you've answered all my questions I think and if I may I'd like to yield to Senator Fasano.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, the Senator from the 32nd.

Senator Fasano, will you accept the yield, sir?

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Mr. President, I do accept the yield.

Mr. President, I have a lot of questions about this bill that I -- I won't go into right this second. This bill has some concerns in -- in reading it that I have on due process and procedural and evidence and trial and collateral and who's collecting fees and what if it's criminal and who gets a record and who has jurisdiction and where and if it's a violation here, not a violation there, what happens to people.

So I have a litany of questions that I'd like to get into on this bill and will do so a little bit later. But for now, Mr. President, what I want to focus on is with economy being as bad as it is and just getting over Memorial Day weekend, we recognize for those of us who have been out at our parades, and I know all of us, at some point in time during the weekend, were at our parades honoring our veterans for the service that they have done to our country over the years and the service and the freedom that they have brought to our shores.

And we've heard, at least I have heard when I was out there, the fact that economic times are so difficult and we always look in our own way to thank the veterans for the service that they have given us and for the privileges that we're able to take advantage of, in particular right here in this Chamber, when we could freely debate bills that come in front of us and freely exchange ideas and vote on these bills and have our general elections all of which freedom -- all of

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which freedom could not be but for those who served during wartime and even during peacetime.

And with that, Mr. President, I would ask the Clerk to call LCO 8034, permit the -- permission to summarize and move the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 8034, Senate "A", offered by Senator McKinney.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you. Just because I think I moved for the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

On adoption, will you remark, sir?

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you very much, yes.

Mr. President, what this does is it says notwithstanding any provisions in the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall implement a program to waive fishing licenses -- or fishing fees I should say for any veterans.

As I had mentioned, Mr. President, we just got through with Memorial Day weekend. Many of these veterans that I ran into were talking about the exorbitant cost of living in the State of Connecticut, the exorbitant costs of -- of doing things like fishing and visiting parks which I think we do give some cuts to parks for veterans.

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But I realized, as this bill was being debated, that fishing fees were something that we did not carve out an exception for our veterans. Mr. President, this is just a miniscule part of the revenue that we raised here in the State of Connecticut.

When we talk about how we can honor our veterans I know each of us probably this weekend gave a speech, long or short, about the importance of veterans and how we try to do what we can in this building, each one of our Chambers, and with the Veterans Commission -- Veterans Commission which Senator Welch I know is -- is a Ranking Member on, where we try to do what we can to make life better, easier for veterans.

We try to do what we can to let the veterans know that the time they served to help us we reward that every step of the way that we can do it and it's easy for us to stand at a podium and say thank you, you made us free, we appreciate your hard work, applaud and sit down but sometimes we have to do more than that and most of the time we should do more than that.

Mr. President, this particular amendment does do more than that. Mr. President, this is just a drop in the bucket in showing the appreciation that we have for those who serve. We have done things like reduction of assessment on -- on your homes for -- veterans. We have cut fees in certain areas and rightly so, education, books, those types of items.

And that's a great step but this is another one we can do. We can do this, add this to this bill. I know eventually at some hour of today or tomorrow this bill may, in fact, pass this Chamber. And when it does it would be great to have with it this great addition which is a bill that says to veterans we thank you, which is a bill that says to veterans when it comes to fishing licenses, and I know a lot of them do do that fishing, we appreciate it and we're going to give you something extra, above and beyond the typical veteran benefits that this Chamber has given from time to time.

You know, Mr. President, opening day of fishing I think was four weeks ago or six weeks ago and I was at

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an opening of a baseball game and there was a veteran who was going to opening day of fishing and he had to be there for this grandson's baseball tournament but he couldn't wait to start fishing and we started talking. I'm not a very big fisherman myself but certainly he was and I know he was excited for the game to be over and get out there and do some fly fishing and catch I guess it was bass but I didn't really ask him what it was.

But this is the type of thing that we know -- that I know they enjoy. This is the type of thing that we can do readily easily so, Mr. President, I -- I look for support in the Circle for those who speak in favor of this amendment and join me in voting in favor.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Thanks, Mr. President.

This is -- this -- this is a good -- a good amendment which ought to be adopted some other day. There's obviously a fiscal note involved here. The fiscal note has not come out yet so we don't know what it's going to cost us. We're going into a budget hopefully later this week so fiscal notes become more important this week than they have been before.

I should tell you also that I don't know if you remember several years ago the Circle passed a -- a bill for veterans, because I'm a member of a veterans fishing group and in Branford we -- we serve about 60 disabled vets in fishing, and we passed a bill that allows a group of veterans to have just one license and that license, in this case, is paid by the sponsoring organization which happens to be the congressional -- the con -- I'm sorry the Conga -- Congregational Church of Branford.

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So that was a good step that we made and maybe we'll go further later on but without a fiscal note and -- and with a -- with a bill that -- actually the -- a fiscal note has just come out and it says revenue loss so it's not prepared yet to estimate what the revenue loss would be but I'll work -- work with you when we come back into session, Senator Fasano, to -- to do this. I think it's a good -- good direction.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz.

SENATOR MEYER:

And ask for a roll call vote, Mr. President, on this amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Frantz has the floor.

SENATOR FRANTZ:

Thank you.

And thank you, Mr. President. I remember three, maybe four years ago, when the bill first came out in front of the Chamber to enact a fishing license program for salt water fishing and I -- I stood here in disbelief thinking that this was one of those, not a right but a privilege. If we were all well-behaved and we didn't abuse that privilege to go out and fish for salt water fish, that we would have that in perpetuity yet I do understand the considerations that were taken into account at the time by DEP, they were called at the time, and by other organizations that wanted to push for this and also revenue considerations.

And yes, as a good Legislator, or trying to be a good Legislator, I did understand why they had to do this and I accepted it. I think I was the first person to get a fishing license at probably two and a half times the cost, which they later reduced to a lower amount, and put in for a refund which obviously didn't come.

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But it -- it was the whole notion of one of those things almost like a rite of passage as a child, as a privilege for children, for -- for mid-age people and for -- for elderly folks to go fishing whenever they wanted to on the shores of Long Island Sound in the salt water.

This was something that we had kind of just assumed was going to be there forever. So I was a little bit shocked when that came before us three or four years ago in this Chamber. And so to learn -- or to at least think about it again tonight that veterans are not exempted from that condition, that they have to go out and they have to purchase one of these permits, it does take a little bit of time on the internet to do this and whatever the fee is today it's a -- it's -- it's a burden, there's no question about it, especially to a veteran who should not have to pay something like this.

And it is inconceivable to me that if you are a disabled veteran, I do not believe there is any kind of a carve-out from that fee from that fishing license that you have to buy as a veteran who has been injured in -- in a war.

So I think it's an absolute necessity that we spend some time talking about this. I have a lot of questions on the underlying bill as well but there -- there is no question that each and every one of us should ask ourselves isn't this a good thing for veterans. We're fresh off of Memorial Day weekend and we all spent time with hundreds of vets all the way from World War II to the most recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iran.

And boy don't -- doesn't your heart bleed for these people? They put themselves in harm's way. Many of them have come back altered physically and you want to do everything for them and you know you can't do everything but something as simple as a fishing license fee waiver can't -- you know can't we do that in this Circle for these people who have put themselves on the line for all of us so that we could have the wonderful Memorial Day weekend cookouts and parties and everything else that occurred over the last three and four days.

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I think the answer to that is a simple yes, no question about, so I would urge every single person in this Circle, whether they're here in the Chamber right now or watching on TV or wherever they are, to think about this. This is the absolute least that we can do.

Again, it's a wonderful old tradition. It -- it summarizes what recreation is all about. Some people fish for five minutes a year. Some people fish for hours a day. I know I'll -- I'll get in maybe an hour and a half of fishing, don't ask me how many fish I catch every year, it's a -- pretty much a big goose egg but I love to get out there and just throw the casting lure or -- or the -- or the fly rod.

It's a wonderful, wonderful kind of recreation and I don't mind paying the \$45 or whatever it is these days but for these veterans who have put so much on the line can't we do something for them. Senator Fasano, I want to thank you and Senator McKinney for -- for introducing this amendment. I think it's something each and every one of you should talk about here tonight and certainly think about.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I also rise to strongly support this particular amendment and join my colleagues in the Circle in commending Senator Fasano for bringing this up at this particular time.

I lived in a home with a father that was -- I would call him a victim of World War II being on the front lines as a 19 year old who was severely affected by it and, as a result, was not always a very happy man and

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had a lot of anger issues in the household but one of the places that I often saw him actually smile and get some relaxation was through fishing.

And it was actually very remarkable because we didn't engage in a lot of recreational activities with him other than him taking us out as very young children on a fishing excursion, whether it was in our local rivers and areas here in Connecticut, but it -- it really changed him markedly.

And, as I said, there were very few places where he got any true enjoyment at all and given that we have just come off of a Memorial Day weekend, this couldn't be more apropos when we do start to think about the experiences that many of these soldiers have encumbered and it's not just the Second World War which was so clearly documented with so many films, both during that time during the 40s and 50s, but even through some spectacular films in our era, in our decades, through these wonderful film makers like Spielberg and fabulous actors like Tom Hanks who brought the reality of war and what it did to youngsters essentially, when you think about their ages, the ages of our own children and what it did to them if they were fortunate enough to survive.

You know I could recount some of the things that -- my father never mentioned, by the way, but my mother would confide in me because there were things that -- that only a husband and wife share of the most devastating moments such as being blown up and buried underground when your foot was sticking out with that boot and, because you were a young recruit, someone pulled that boot off of you hoping that they could use it pulling you out instead and living your whole life with a fear of being buried underground alive. Experiencing terrible experiences in -- in prison camps with your food being sold off and gnawing on boots and water to gnaw from the hunger and the starvation you went through.

These are untold experiences that too many live with and I'm sure also living amongst us a lot of these returning veterans, men and women. But one -- as I said one of the activities that truly gives some --

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some comfort and some therapy actually is the -- the act of fishing.

That's one of the recreational aspects that -- that really are very helpful and I -- I can't help but look at some of the tenets of this compact that -- that this amendment is -- is referring to when it talks about wildlife resources are managed in trust by the respective sta -- states for the benefit of all residents and visitors and how valuable these resources are.

Well these valuable resources can put to really good use by some of our most honored and individuals among us, those soldiers that literally have put their lives on the line for us to be able to live in freedom so I would support this mightily particularly as a therapeutic activity endeavor that shouldn't be at a cost to veterans that oftentimes live on very, very minor and low income and, in some cases, are actually homeless, not to mention the women veterans because women do fish as well as the men.

So again I thank Senator Fasano. I hope everyone will support this amendment, see it as a friendly amendment and surely outweigh any potential costs that could be to the State of Connecticut.

Thank you, Mr. President

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR McLACHLAN:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I stand in firm support of this amendment -- this amendment. I'd like to thank Senator Fasano and Senator McKinney for bringing forward this idea. You know the concern of the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Senator Meyer, that the fiscal note says a revenue loss, it actually says the amendment would

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result in a revenue loss, the amount of which cannot be determined at this time.

So actually the timing of this request is perfect because somewhere in a backroom here in the State Capitol people are putting together our state budget. So we could just set aside a few extra thousand dollars in that budget document before everyone else sees it in preparation for this great idea of allowing veterans in Connecticut to fish for free.

I -- I frankly think they should hunt for free as well but I'll settle for fishing. I think that it is the least we can do for folks who have made a big commitment for all of us here in the United States of America and if it's just a -- a small way to say thank you, we should do that.

This is especially a good idea because we're not doing an unfunded mandate on local municipalities. This Legislature likes the idea of passing on good tax credits to veterans but it is local taxpayers that pay the cost of that, not the state government.

In this case the state government would actually give up a few of their dollars of revenue for the purpose of veterans and I think that's a great idea and I firmly support it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Markley.

SENATOR MARKLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I too rise in support of this amendment with thanks for Senator Fasano for thinking of such a felicitous idea at this time of year particularly when the veterans are so much on our minds and I have to say that Senator Boucher's comments remind me of the deep

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ties that always exist between hunting and fishing and military activity.

She mentioned some of the movies that -- that highlight that theme but I'm reminded especially of two great stories by Hemingway that explore the relationship between military service and the hunting life which you might remember from high school of one of them, in the Nick Adams stories, the great story the Big Two-Hearted River where Nick Adams goes up into the upper peninsula and -- and goes fishing and it puts him back in contact, in a rather -- in a deep way, with the war experience which he has somehow suppressed within himself.

And maybe more -- more particular to my own experience in -- in *The Sun Also Rises*, another book that deals with veterans of World War I. The wonderful journey that Jake Barnes takes into land I know very well in the north of Spain, north of Pamplona, for five days of trout fishing. One of the most beautiful and one of the most healing scenes that I think exists in any work of fiction -- American fiction.

It's a -- it's a very real tie and I think something that this particular amendment would recognize and give us an opportunity to -- to enshrine in state statute as a tribute to the veterans. I -- I think as -- as Senator Boucher said in some cases people for whom the cost of the license can be a significant cost and a barrier.

Certainly more important to those men and women as individuals than the revenue is in aggregate to the State of Connecticut. I can't believe that it's something that we couldn't find a way of affording if we cared enough about it and the opportunity presents itself to us here tonight and I would very much urge my colleagues here in the Circle to support this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

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Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you again to Senator Fasano and Senator McKinney for raising what I think is probably one of the more important amendments that we'll see tonight or in the days that follow especially after Memorial Day.

We all, I think as Senator Fasano alluded, spent probably a lot of time marching out in our towns honoring those that gave their lives for our freedom. Not just veterans but the ones that -- that didn't come home.

We actually -- the Town of Thomaston was added to the 31st District this year so it was my first time attending their ceremony and in the middle of the parade we wound up at the -- at a hilltop cemetery where there's a small lake and a woman and a veteran went out on -- in a little boat on the lake putting flowers into the lake in memory of those that died at sea which was very moving and something I hadn't seen on a Memorial Day ceremony and it was very touching.

And then after that the -- the gentleman, who was in a Navy uniform who was rowing the boat, released a number of doves which obviously symbolized the spirits of those lost ascending into heaven.

Very touching and very fitting that we have this amendment before us and I think -- I think, Mr. President, that this is actually very important to me. I'm a fourth generation veteran, the only one in that generation not to have seen active combat for which I am thankful. But I got to tell you it took a long time for those who went before me to open up and share with me what their experiences were.

My grandfather, in particular, it wasn't until the last days of this life that he actually opened up to me and talked about his time in Italy. One time in particular where his Sergeant told him to go take a hill where there was a nest on top firing right down on him.

But events like fishing allow for opportunities for one generation to share with the next, to open up and to heal. Senator Boucher actually talked about how fishing is therapeutic and I don't if she knew about this but there are a number of organizations out there throughout the country that actually use fishing to help wounded veterans.

In fact in the State of Washington they have the Wounded Veterans Fishing Program which is intended to be an alternative means of therapy for wounded vets returning from combat with PTSD, post-traumatic stress syndrome. It's had a number of names over the years, shell shock, et cetera.

My dad had PTSD when he came back from -- from Vietnam and it literally tore our family apart. It's a -- it's a very real injury with consequences and harm to more than just the person that suffers but obviously those that -- those loved ones that they care about.

So -- and they're not the only organization. In fact in Senator Meyer's own district in -- in Branford there's the -- the First Congregational Church on Main Street. I don't know if Senator Meyer has ever visited the First Congregational Church but they've started a program Take a Vet Fishing.

So this -- this is not a unique concept it's -- concept, it's not something that -- that is, you know, contrived for tonight but it's a very real -- it's a -- it's an amendment with some very real potential of some very real healing for some very little cost to the State of Connecticut and I think -- I think Senator McLachlan was correct. We're still talking about the budget and we're not talking about a lot of money here and this would be something that we could take care of within the next few hours I would imagine in some backroom somewhere as Senator McLachlan realized.

But this is a -- a great concept. I'm obviously supportive of it, not just as the Ranking Member of Veterans, but as somebody who's been very close to veterans who have come back from war with some very real wounds and scars and there's clearly a body of --

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of thought out there that fishing is very healing and very therapeutic so thank you, Senator Fasano, for bringing this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I have a -- a ton of questions on the underlying bill but before we get to that, many years ago, back before the robber barons roamed the land, the year was 1867. 1867 was the very first, to my knowledge, Decoration Day where women went out to the graves of all the fallen Civil War soldiers and decorated those graves, the worst war that our nation ever fought.

You can even line up the casualty tolls from World War I, World War II, they pale to the slaughter that took place during our Civil War. Many years after that first Decoration Day that day's name was changed and that day we now know as Memorial Day.

And we all went, as Senator Fasano indicated, to parades and gatherings in our districts over the weekend. I know that we had Governor Dannel Malloy in Enfield on Sunday for our parade. Ted Plamondon, who served in World War II, estimated the crowds at about 20,000 and Senator Fasano was exactly correct. Many, many people made speeches and sang praises for those who serve our nation.

If it were not for their sacrifice, we wouldn't be here in this Circle. We wouldn't be able to stand up and express ourselves, ask our questions and participate in this Republican form of government that we have here in Connecticut.

It almost -- it almost seems too little to offer an amendment to say free fishing licenses for veterans and yet we'll find a reason not to pass it and there's always some reason, waiting on a fiscal note, fiscal

note is not clear enough and, as Senator McLachlan pointed out, somewhere in this building there's pretty much a -- a finalized budget that just needs to be brought out before the Senate and the House.

Because what I heard today was that people were already discussing for hours and hours the terms of the budget while perhaps members of the minority party asked to attend the Senate Circle waited and waited and waited.

So here we are. When Senator Markley talked about Ernest Hemingway, I recall one of the books I recently read by Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* that had to do with a man who had served in World War I.

If you'd ever wondered why Memorial Day and other veteran's occasions are associated with the poppy, it's my understanding that the poppy can only grow in fields where there's a little light dusting of dirt covering it.

Not your typical plant that just blows in the wind and lands somewhere and the reason the poppy is associated with our veterans goes back to World War I and the trench warfare, the artillery, the grenades that constantly churned up the soil so that in France, as these seeds landed in the -- on the soil, blew up all around them, it would lightly cover the seeds such that in such a brutal environment these beautiful red poppy seeds would -- would blossom. Such a contrast to what was going on at that time and yet the red of the poppy also symbolized the lost blood of all the people that fought in that brutal war.

When we talk about fishing we could go -- probably go back to the American classic, *Moby Dick*, search for the great white whale opens up with the line call me Ishmael. And I'm actually in the middle of listening to some tapes regarding that great very long book but essentially the white whale symbolizes almost man's destiny or lack thereof.

It's a white whale. White typically in literature symbolizes nothingness, *tabula rasa*. It eventually gets colored and contrasted, can form a picture, but white, by itself, is a deep nothingness. And Captain

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Ahab, as he searched for that great white whale, was trying to get some meaning in his life by trying to do something with that vast nothingness that was in the ocean.

Of course it's not a perfect analogy. A whale is a mammal and we're talking about fishing licenses. I remember debating another bill several years ago to the wee hours where I told you that, on occasion, every summer I would go out to Cape Cod and there was this one time where when our boat pulled up there was this handsome young man with one arm on the dock and he was getting ready to -- to get on the boat so that he could go fishing.

He wasn't going to let his injury dismay him and, as it turned out upon asking other people on the dock, it turned out, and I think Senator Meyer probably recalls this, that he was a veteran and he had just got back from the wars in the Middle East.

And at that time we were debating should we have a death penalty for those that murder our veterans and we had a very heartfelt long debate on that issue and so many others.

So this is something completely different. This is merely allowing veterans to be afforded a simple benefit. And as Senator Fasano has pointed out we have in our statutes so many other areas where we carve out niches to honor our veterans and show them the respect that they deserve.

I am tempted to go on at length on this amendment but I know that we have an awful lot of more amendments probably coming down the road as well as questions regarding the underlying bill. But I think as we move forward this evening, especially after we honored our veterans this past Memorial Day weekend, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and never came back home, but for those who may have fought in foreign lands, braved bitter cold, steaming heat, far from the moms and dads and sons and daughters and wives and husbands, neighbors and friends that they love, as we reintegrate our veterans back into our society and there will be thousands of veterans returning to Connecticut as we wind down the

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conflagrations in the Middle East and Afghanistan, the least we could do is allow them to get a fishing license so that they can go and spend that time, if they so desire, with perhaps a son or daughter, friend or loved one, neighbor and do something enjoyable in the land that they put their lives on the line to protect.

I wonder if the interstate compact bill goes through if other states would have to respect our state's free license for veterans policy but we'll save that question for another day.

At this point in time I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator.

Senator Kane.

SENATOR KANE:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I too rise in favor of this amendment and I think Senator Kissel said it well when he mentioned that I don't think we're doing enough for our veterans and when we talk about this amendment, about giving our veterans the right to a fishing license without a fee, it -- it really isn't enough and, you know, I don't pretend to know how much the fee is for a fishing license but I'm -- certainly it's a -- a reasonable number and something that many of us can afford but something that we can also afford to allow a veteran to have without that pain or the trouble of having to pay it.

I too participated in a few Labor -- Memorial Day parades this weekend as you can imagine having ten towns that I represent and one in particular always strikes a chord with me. In Woodbury we have a gentleman by the name of Bud Neal who was a Vietnam veteran and he always gives this speech or a little

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poem, it's actually by J.L. Sager, but what he says is it was a veteran, not a reporter, who guaranteed freedom of the press.

It was a veteran, not a poet, who guaranteed freedom of speech. It was a veteran, not a campus organizer, who guaranteed freedom to demonstrate. It was a veteran, not a minister, who guaranteed freedom of worship.

It was a veteran, not a salesman, who guaranteed freedom to own property. It was a veteran, not a travel agent, who guaranteed freedom to travel. It was a veteran, not a politician, who guaranteed freedom to vote. It was a veteran who salutes the flag, risks it all for the flag and who is buried beneath the flag.

And that poem always sticks with me each time Mr. Neal reads it on Memorial Day in Woodbury. And when you read that poem or when you hear those words, you think he is certainly correct that the veteran is who gives us our opportunity to even stand here right now and debate this bill.

It is the veteran who gives us freedom of speech and freedom of the press and the freedom to assemble. It is that person who lays his life on the line in defending our country and defending our freedoms that we have this ability to be here today in this beautiful building.

It is not us. Why can't we offer them this one little thing to provide them with a -- with a little benefit, as Senator Kissel said, for giving so much that they have given to our country? I think it's a small price to pay.

We talk -- in this building we talk all the time about well if it's for one child or if it's one person or if we can save one individual than it's worth it. All the money in the world doesn't matter. We -- we're going to pay for certain aspects, public safety and public health so why not this.

I mean the fiscal note says that -- can you hand me that fiscal note -- it would be a revenue loss but how

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many times do we have things that cost us great deal more that we still put in the budget and we still put forth as policy.

This is one small little thing for our veterans so they could go fishing without having a fee. I mean it's nothing compared to what these people put on -- their lives on the line for our country and defend it.

(President in the Chair.)

So, Madam President, good evening.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR KANE:

I too rise in favor of this amendment and I would encourage every single one of us because it's not a Democrat or Republican thing. We all support the veterans. I mean regardless of what party you're in, we all participated in Memorial Day celebrations yesterday. We all looked at that flag. We all pledged allegiance. We all sang the National Anthem. We all walked in parades and we all watched these people do what they did for our country so we can be here today so why can't we give them something back.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Good evening, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY:

Good evening, Madam President, and thank you.

I have a couple of questions, though you, to the proponent of the amendment.

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THE CHAIR:

Will you proceed, sir?

SENATOR KELLY:

Thank you.

With regards to the language that talks about the Commissioner providing a program to waive the fee for fishing, is that also going to include mollusks and crustaceans?

Through you, Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

I -- I didn't think of it that way. I don't know if you need a fishing fee for crustaceans but to the extent that you do, the answer would be yes.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kelly, would you like to proceed, sir?

SENATOR KELLY:

No I have no further questions for the proponent.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

SENATOR KELLY:

Thank you.

This past Saturday, or actually this weekend, we did have Memorial Day and we honored our vets at various ceremonies and parades. And on Saturday, as I was doing my normal weekly errands, I was taken as I

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walked out of the dry cleaner in Stratford and saw a license plate and it was a veteran's license plate that said you are free and I stopped for a moment because, you know, we weren't in parade mode so to speak yet, we were just looking -- I was just walking doing my normal customary activities but I was stopped by that because it really hit home that we don't get to do the things that we do just because.

These -- these activities don't just happen. Before the American experience, actually a Connecticut experience of Connet -- constitutional government of the people, by the people, for the people, we derived our rights from government but it was here in America we derived our rights from a higher authority, our creator.

But that was a new and novel concept, a new and novel concept that wasn't well received throughout the world and so in order to get that freedom and liberty we needed, at times, to sacrifice and it was our veterans who fought in those conflicts like the American Reso -
- Revolution through the Civil War up to this day.

And so when we honor Memorial Day, it's not just Memorial Day, it's honoring the service and sacrifice of veterans whose sacrifice enables us our freedoms. And we heard from Senator Welch and his poignant story about that sacrifice and what that sacrifice means when people come back from war.

And one of the things that I know I talked about on Monday and Sunday was that we shouldn't just limit our honor of Memorial Day to that one day but it's something that we should practice every day and to practice that through the exercise of our freedoms. Now we've heard about freedom of speech and freedom of worship, there's also freedom from want and this fishing opportunity gives our veterans the opportunity to have a license but to use that license not only in recreational aspects but also for sustenance.

I've had a fishing license. I don't know if it's still current because I haven't been able to get out on a boat and fish this year but I also used to hold a lobster license. That was the reason for my question on mollusks and crustaceans because I wondered if it

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would extend to lobstermen and oystermen, people who clam.

I can remember going up to Cape Cod and clamming and then coming back and making, you know, stuffed clams. So there is a real sustenance purpose.

And to share the abundant resources of our country with veterans seems to me to be the right thing to do. They've given us our freedoms. We can return it with a modicum of -- of goodwill that I think a fishing license would do.

I'm a little disconcerted that after participating in events, very somber events, very serious events over the past weekend, knowing what the sacrifices and service of our veterans was and continues to be to this day, that we would put the price of a fishing license on our freedom that people gave to us.

Freedom isn't free but I think it's certainly worth more than the cost of a fishing license and I think our veterans deserve that.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Good evening, Senator Linares.

SENATOR LINARES:

Good -- good evening, Madam President, it's great to see you.

THE CHAIR:

Same here, sir.

SENATOR LINARES:

You know yesterday we all marched in parades and celebrated and honored those veterans who paid -- or

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those people who paid the ultimate sacrifice to our country and to our veterans who served selflessly overseas to make sure that a government of the people, a government for the people shall not perish from the Earth.

And I believe and agree with what Senator Kelly had said that we shouldn't just celebrate our veterans one day out of the year, we should celebrate and honor them every day. And I -- I think that this bill does just that by allowing veterans -- or giving veterans an exemption from the -- the fishing license fee. I think that it's a gen -- a generous move that everyone should support. It's the least we can do and we cannot do enough for them. I do believe that small things like this can make a big difference for our veterans.

One of the -- one of the recent activities that I held in my district was a -- a flag collection, I know that Senator Witkos has done that in his district, where we -- we stood at a -- alongside some veterans in my district, we stood at the transfer station, which is the town dump in Haddam, and we collected old American flags so we can deliver their proper retirement.

And we did our best to get the word out about this event and I was just astounded by the participation from our veterans. We collected over 3,000 flags to be delivered for their proper retirement.

This discussion also reminds me of a conversation that I had with veterans in Colchester from the Polish Club who were telling me their stories about Vietnam and their service and their struggles and their fight. It reminded me of discussions with my grandfather, my mother's father, who served in the Air Force and my grandfather, whose favorite book was *The Old Man and the Sea*, and Senator Kissel has -- has left the Chamber, but his discussion on *Moby Dick* reminded me of this book and I think it has some value to this discussion where an old man from Cuba named Santiago spent two days and two nights reeling in a large marlin while fighting tenacious sharks to bring the fish to the -- to the shore.

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When he reached the shore he was so exhausted that he crawled into bed and went to sleep. The next day a group of fishermen gathered around the boat to find that the fish had been torn apart and only the skeleton was left.

The community reached out. People went to his house and gave him a cup of coffee. They celebrated the fact that this man had struggled and had triumphed even though he fell short of bringing in the whole fish. He had struggled and his struggle was -- was what they were celebrating and a small gesture was made to this man.

This is very similar. We are providing a very small and generous jest -- gesture to our veterans in our community by waiving the fishing license for them. I -- I think that this is an excellent amendment and I am -- I am very encouraged to support it.

I do have plenty of questions here on the underlying bill. I look forward to getting to that, Madam President, in just a few minutes, but I -- I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this amendment and thank the leadership for proposing it.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator McKinney, good evening, sir.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, first I would like to -- I believe we're on the amendment. Is that correct, Madam President?

THE CHAIR:

Yes sir.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you.

Madam President, first I'd like to thank all of those who -- who stood to support the amendment. It is an excellent amendment. However at this time I would like to withdraw the amendment so we can be back on the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Is there any objection to withdrawing the amendment?

Seeing none, amendment withdrawn.

Thank you.

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Madam President, may I ask if we just stand at ease for a brief moment please?

THE CHAIR:

Absolutely.

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will come back to order.

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

I want to thank you and Senator Looney for that brief moment. Madam President, if I could yield to Senator Fasano for a question for legislative intent.

THE CHAIR:

No problem..

Senator Fasano, will you accept the yield, sir?

SENATOR FASANO:

Yes I do, thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, through you to Senator Meyer, Senator Meyer, in reading the bill there's a section that talks about the citation and it talks about not having collateral that is required. However the preamble talks about collateral. Is it the intention of this bill to allow DEEP officers to get collateral for a citation?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Through you, Madam President, to Senator Fasano, it's a good question and actually the bill is quite specific on this and says in lines 156 to 158 that the officer issuing the ci -- the citation for a wildlife violation shall not -- shall not require the person to post collateral to secure his appearance. So I think the answer to your question is there is no such obligation under this bill.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Madam President.

And I thank Senator Meyer for his answer.

THE CHAIR:

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Thank you.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill?

SENATOR MEYER:

Madam President, if there is no object --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

-- objection or further comment, may this bill go on the Consent Calendar?

THE CHAIR:

There is a -- there is a disagreement on that, sir.

SENATOR MEYER:

Okay.

THE CHAIR:

So, Mr. Clerk, will you please call for a roll call vote and the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, all members have voted the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will please you call the tally?

THE CLERK:

On Senate Bill Number 1020.

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Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	25
Those voting Nay	10
Absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes.

Senator Looney, good evening, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Good evening, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Getting better.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, I would yield the floor to any members for announcements of committee meetings or for points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Are there any meeting announcements or points of personal privilege?

Seeing none, oops sorry, Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Good evening, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, sir.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Just for a point of information.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 6
1666 - 2009**

2013

8 March 15, 2013
mb/cip/gbr ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 10:30 A.M.

you want to add to that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUSAN WHALEN: Good morning,
Mr. Chairman. I have two bills to testify on.

SENATOR MEYER: Good morning.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUSAN WHALEN: So if you'd like
to take that now or --

SENATOR MEYER: Why don't we take your testimony
now before we take questions.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUSAN WHALEN: That's fine.

Good morning, members of the committee. My
name is Susan Whalen. I'm the deputy
commissioner of environmental conservation for
the Department of Energy and Environmental
Protection. I'm here to testify on two bills;
Senate Bill 1015, AN ACT CONCERNING THE NEW
ENGLAND SCENIC TRAIL. The DEEP supports this
bill which would confer the same rights and
obligations to the New England National Scenic
Trail as conferred to the Appalachian National
Scene Trail. We do ask for a slight
modification to the bill which is presented in
our written testimony that we feel would help
avoid any confusion with other authority
currently resting with the Commissioner to
acquire property.

SB1020

In Connecticut, the New England Scenic Trail
comprises 39 communities from the Long Island
Sound to the Massachusetts state line. It's
stewardship is performed by the Connecticut
Forest and Park Association and volunteers and
willing landowners. The route showcases
classic New England landscapes featuring
long-distance vistas, agrarian lands,
unfragmented forests and large river valleys.
The trail also travels through important

Native American and colonial historical landmarks and highlights a range of diverse ecosystems and natural resources including rock ridges, mountain summits, forested glades, water pools, lakes, streams and waterfalls.

We at the DEEP work closely with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and other partners to support recreational trails. We recognize the important role that a recreational and scenic trail plays in the quality of life and the opportunities for recreation for our citizens and we believe the New England Scenic Trail is worthy of this distinction and we urge the committee's support.

The second bill I'd like to testify on is Senate Bill 1020, the interstate wildlife violator compact. The national compact of states was created in 1989 to promote compliance with laws, regulations, ordinance, resolutions and administrative rules that relate to the management of wildlife resources in respective member states. Since 1989, 39 states have joined the compact and another and another five are in some state of passing legislation to join. I have a map here that demonstrates in red, yellow and green just how many member states there are in the compact. This was a compact that was initiated in the western part of the United States and like many things at initiate in the west, it's gradually making its way eastward.

So the compact member states recognize the suspension of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. So that's to say if a person loses their right or privilege to hunt, fish or trap in any of the compact member states, they can lose those same rights and privileges in other

member states as well. We believe this is an important step in the enforcement of our fish and game laws to ensure that those who violate laws in other states do not have the opportunity to access Connecticut's wildlife resources. And by the same token, we would ensure that those who violate laws here receive consistent treatment in other member states.

And that concludes my testimony. Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you to both you.

Questions from members of the committee?

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Committee McCleary, good morning. I heard what you said about the revenue aspects of going to an annual general permit fee I guess for lack of a better term. Does that then -- have you done an analysis as to the impact on the actual applicants for those who would fall under that. For instance, it may be somebody may have to apply for an individual permit every three years, but if you go to annual fee, would they be paying one-third of the amount they would have paid?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MACKY MCCLEARY: Senator, we haven't done the analysis yet, because we're not -- all we're creating right now is the capability to do it. What I'll say is I think pricing -- and this is what I would call a pricing study -- and it is both complicated and important. What I mean by that is to say we would want to make sure on a general permit by a general permit basis based on the regulated population that we are both

somewhere within the realm of what our neighbor and kind of partner states on each permit so -- and sometimes that can vary as much as between \$100 and \$2300 between New York and New Jersey, it's amazing, for the same permit, but simultaneously understanding the fee relationship between the different types of permits so make sure that we're not sure overburdening someone who has to take an individual permit versus a general permit and make sure all those price strata are coordinated in the correct way.

So we haven't done the analysis because we're not yet implementing. We're going to have to do that on a general permit by general permit basis, but we will do the analysis.

SENATOR CHAPIN: And would that be done internally or would that be done through regulation as to how you set those fees?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MACKY MCCLEARY: I believe the answer is internally, but not sure. I can get back to you on that.

SENATOR CHAPIN: Okay. Thank you. And not to leave you out, Commissioner Whalen, regarding the National Scenic Trail, I think there are a number of people in this building who get a little concerned when we see proposals where we're giving the state additional powers to take land by eminent domain. Would these be -- would envision encompassing properties along the trail or would it be further way to protect scenic vistas and things like that?

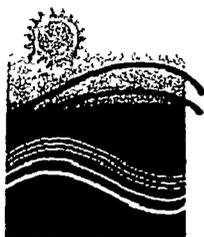
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SUSAN WHALEN: Our recommendation is to eliminate the language that speaks to eminent domain so that's not something that we support as part of this bill. The notion is to acquire by willing

SB1015

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 7
2010 - 2351**

2013



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 15, 2013
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Daniel C. Esty
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen

Raised Senate Bill No. 1020 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 1020 – An Act Concerning The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) offers the following testimony.

We appreciate the Committee's willingness to raise this bill at the request of the DEEP. This proposal, which we strongly support, would allow Connecticut to join the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact (Compact). This would assist in protecting the state's natural resources by preventing violations of hunting and fishing laws in our state by people who are under revocation in another state from hunting, fishing or trapping in Connecticut.

Member states may revoke license privileges from other states when there is a revocable offense in another compact member state. Membership in the Compact allows officers to cite and release nonresident violators versus having to make a custodial arrest or the posting of a cash bond as a condition of release. This will allow our officers to spend more time on patrol, surveillance and apprehension of violators.

This proposal will help keep Connecticut from becoming a location that suspended violators from other states can hunt, a safe haven so to speak. The suspension of hunting and fishing privileges has proven to be valuable deterrent to poaching.

Currently, there are thirty-eight active member states that belong to the Compact. Of the twelve non-member states, four have passed legislation which will allow them to become a member of the Compact.

Persons that have had their hunting, trapping or fishing privileges suspended in Connecticut may be suspended for similar violations in other member states.

This bill will enhance the ability of DEEP to provide protection to the public and the state's natural resources by not allowing convicted violators from other states to hunt trap and fish in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP's legislative liaison Robert LaFrance at (860) 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov.