



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #565

Wildlife Violator Compact (DNR -- Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation)

Bill Agency

[LFB 2007-09 Budget Summary: Page 410, #8]

CURRENT LAW

2005 Wisconsin Act 282 authorized Wisconsin to enter the wildlife violator compact, which creates a multi-state approach to suspending the hunting and fishing privileges of a conservation law violator. However, Wisconsin has not yet entered the compact. The compact, which includes 22 other states, provides that if a person's licensing privileges are revoked in one state, they are revoked in all states. Participation in the compact would allow Wisconsin to track violators who have had their hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges revoked or suspended in other states.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$121,500 in 2007-08 and \$59,600 in 2008-09 from the fish and wildlife account of the conservation fund with 1.0 three-year project position beginning in 2007-08 to support Wisconsin's participation in a wildlife violator compact with other states.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. In the fiscal estimate that accompanied Assembly Bill 26 (enacted as 2005 Act 282), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) estimated that implementing the wildlife violator compact in Wisconsin would result in one-time data system costs of \$75,000 and would require \$50,900 annually with 1.0 permanent position to administer the compact. However, no appropriation was made under the act.

2. Funding under the bill would be consistent with resources identified by DNR to implement the act and would include \$75,000 in one-time funding in 2007-08 as well as \$46,500 in 2007-08 and \$59,600 in 2008-09 for a three-year project position for data systems integration and administration of the wildlife violator compact. DNR plans to integrate the citations recordkeeping system into its Automated License Issuance System (ALIS) so that license revocation data would be included in ALIS customer records. This would enable data-sharing among Wisconsin and other states participating in the compact and allow ALIS vendors to be aware of an individual's license status. The administration recommended a three-year project position to allow the Department enough time to integrate the necessary data into ALIS and initiate the program, but felt that ongoing administration would not require a permanent position with advanced skills. Further, any ongoing need for staff could be reevaluated in the 2009-11 budget, if necessary.

3. However, the Department argues that a permanent position is needed to provide the expertise and long-term commitment necessary to manage the program. The position would be required to work with Wisconsin and participating states' databases, and a permanent position would be able to build up extensive knowledge of the technology involved in administering the compact. Additionally, a permanent position would be able to develop on-going working relationships with other participating states.

4. 2005 Act 282 created a \$5 wildlife violator compact surcharge to be imposed in conjunction with any fine or forfeiture for a violation of hunting and fishing laws, the proceeds of which is deposited in the fish and wildlife account. Revenues are estimated at up to \$44,000 annually based on an average of 8,800 citations per year. However, it may take a few years for this level of revenue to be realized. It could be argued that the intent of the Legislature was to provide funding from the surcharge for ongoing costs of administering the compact. Therefore, an alternative could be to provide \$75,000 in one-time funding in 2007-08 for integration of compact data into the ALIS system and provide \$29,300 in 2007-08 and \$42,700 annually beginning in 2008-09 with 0.75 position to administrator the compact.

5. On the other hand, it could be argued that, as no funding was provided under 2005 Act 282, the intent of the Legislature was that the costs of data integration and administration of the compact should be borne by base resources of DNR. However, DNR indicates that, if no funding is provided, they would be unable to integrate the ALIS citation data and Wisconsin would not join the wildlife violator compact.

ALTERNATIVES TO BILL

1. Adopt the Governor's recommendation to provide \$121,500 in 2007-08 and \$59,600 in 2008-09 from the fish and wildlife account of the conservation fund with 1.0 three-year project position beginning in 2007-08 for data integration and administration costs associated with Wisconsin's participation in the wildlife violator compact.

ALT 1	Change to Bill		Change to Base	
	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions
SEG	\$0	0.00	\$181,100	1.00

2. Provide \$104,300 SEG in 2007-08 and \$42,700 SEG in 2008-09 with 0.75 position to integrate and administer the wildlife violator compact. Provide the position as either:

- a. a three-year project position; or,
- b. a permanent position.

ALT 2	Change to Bill		Change to Base	
	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions
SEG	-\$34,100	- 0.25	\$147,000	0.75

3. Delete provision.

ALT 3	Change to Bill		Change to Base	
	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions
SEG	-\$181,100	- 1.00	\$0	0.00

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