

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4375

**FISCAL
NOTE**

BY DELEGATE WESTFALL

[Introduced February 3, 2016; Referred
to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural
Resources then the Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §20-2-43, relating to entering reciprocal agreements to recognize hunting,
3 fishing and trapping licenses issued by other states; authorizing the Director of Natural
4 Resources to enter into reciprocal agreements; providing for recognition of other licensees
5 without additional fee or application; and providing for notice to the public.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
2 section, designated §20-2-43, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-43. Director authorized to enter reciprocal agreements to recognize hunting, fishing and trapping licenses issued by other states, notice to public.

1 (a) The director is authorized to enter into reciprocal, written agreements with authorized
2 officials of other states to accept and recognize licenses issued by those states for hunting, fishing
3 and trapping to the same extent and in classes that are analogous to those resident licenses
4 authorized in this article, issued by the division. The reciprocal, written agreement shall include a
5 list or description of the class or classes of licenses to be recognized and the list or description
6 may be amended or updated as needed by an addendum, appendix or page of declarations
7 without the necessity of renegotiation or reexecution of the original agreement. When the director
8 enters into a reciprocal agreement with another state, a licensee of that state who holds a license
9 in one of the categories listed or described in the agreement may engage in the same activities
10 permitted under a comparable license issued by the division in this state without making
11 application, or paying any additional fee, for those licensed activities in this state, except that the
12 nonresident licensee may be required to pay the appropriate fee for any additional stamp or
13 endorsement that is not included within the scope of the accepted class of license.

14 (b) The division shall publish descriptions of the licenses of other states that are
15 recognized in this state under the terms of every agreement entered pursuant to this section. The

- 16 division shall publish these descriptions on the website for the division and in any printed or
17 electronic publication offered to the public containing a compilation of the hunting, fishing and
18 trapping regulations of this state or the legal seasons for taking various wildlife or both.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Director of the Division of Natural Resources to enter reciprocal agreements with other states to permit hunting, trapping and fishing under a license issued by states identified in the agreements.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.