

# HOUSE BILL 229

M2

8lr0014

---

By: **Chair, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources)**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fishing – Reciprocal Angler’s Licenses**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying the circumstances under which certain privileges of  
4 certain angler’s licenses issued by certain other states apply; and generally  
5 relating to reciprocal angler’s privileges.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Natural Resources  
8 Section 4–606  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Natural Resources**

14 4–606.

15 (a) (1) A [person] **RESIDENT OF VIRGINIA** possessing a valid Virginia  
16 [or West Virginia] fishing license issued in that [person’s] **RESIDENT’S** name may fish  
17 in nontidal waters of the Potomac River **OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF VIRGINIA**  
18 without obtaining a Maryland angler’s license. This [subsection] **PARAGRAPH** is only  
19 effective if Virginia [or West Virginia] enters into and maintains **A** reciprocal  
20 [agreements] **AGREEMENT** with the Department, approved by the Secretary, which  
21 [allow] **ALLOWS** a person possessing a valid Maryland angler’s license issued in that  
22 person’s name to fish from the Virginia [or West Virginia] banks **OPPOSITE THE**  
23 **SHORE OF MARYLAND** of the Potomac River without acquiring a Virginia [or West  
24 Virginia] fishing license.

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) A RESIDENT OF WEST VIRGINIA POSSESSING A VALID WEST**  
2 **VIRGINIA FISHING LICENSE ISSUED IN THAT RESIDENT'S NAME MAY FISH IN**  
3 **NONTIDAL WATERS OF THE POTOMAC RIVER INCLUDING THE NORTH BRANCH**  
4 **OF THE POTOMAC RIVER AND THE JENNINGS RANDOLPH RESERVOIR**  
5 **OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF WEST VIRGINIA WITHOUT OBTAINING A MARYLAND**  
6 **ANGLER'S LICENSE. THIS PARAGRAPH IS ONLY EFFECTIVE IF WEST VIRGINIA**  
7 **ENTERS INTO AND MAINTAINS A RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE**  
8 **DEPARTMENT, APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY, WHICH ALLOWS A PERSON**  
9 **POSSESSING A VALID MARYLAND ANGLER'S LICENSE ISSUED IN THAT PERSON'S**  
10 **NAME TO FISH FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA BANKS OF THE POTOMAC RIVER,**  
11 **INCLUDING THE NORTH BRANCH OF THE POTOMAC RIVER AND THE JENNINGS**  
12 **RANDOLPH RESERVOIR WITHOUT ACQUIRING A WEST VIRGINIA FISHING**  
13 **LICENSE.**

14           (b) A person possessing a valid Pennsylvania fishing license issued in that  
15 person's name may fish in the waters of the Conowingo and Youghiogheny Reservoirs  
16 without obtaining a Maryland angler's license. This subsection is effective only if  
17 Pennsylvania first enters into and maintains a reciprocal agreement with the  
18 Department, approved by the Secretary, which allows a person possessing a valid  
19 Maryland angler's license issued in that person's name to fish on the portion of the  
20 Conowingo and Youghiogheny Reservoirs lying within the boundaries of Pennsylvania  
21 without acquiring a Pennsylvania fishing license.

22           (c) **(1) [The reciprocal fishing privileges granted to persons holding valid**  
23 **fishing licenses from Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania by this section are**  
24 **valid only for the main stem of the Potomac River and Conowingo and Youghiogheny**  
25 **Reservoirs. A person may not fish in any other Maryland water, including the**  
26 **tributaries of the Potomac River and Conowingo and Youghiogheny Reservoirs,**  
27 **without obtaining an appropriate Maryland fishing license.] THE RECIPROCAL**  
28 **FISHING PRIVILEGES GRANTED BY THIS SECTION TO A PENNSYLVANIA**  
29 **RESIDENT HOLDING A VALID FISHING LICENSE FROM PENNSYLVANIA ARE**  
30 **VALID ONLY FOR THE CONOWINGO AND YOUGHIOGHENY RESERVOIRS.**

31           **(2) THE RECIPROCAL FISHING PRIVILEGES GRANTED BY THIS**  
32 **SECTION TO A WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENT HOLDING A VALID FISHING LICENSE**  
33 **FROM WEST VIRGINIA ARE VALID ONLY FOR THE MAIN STEM OF THE POTOMAC**  
34 **RIVER, THE NORTH BRANCH OF THE POTOMAC RIVER, AND THE JENNINGS**  
35 **RANDOLPH RESERVOIR OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF WEST VIRGINIA.**

36           **(3) THE RECIPROCAL FISHING PRIVILEGES GRANTED BY THIS**  
37 **SECTION TO A VIRGINIA RESIDENT HOLDING A VALID FISHING LICENSE FROM**  
38 **VIRGINIA ARE VALID ONLY FOR THE MAIN STEM OF THE POTOMAC RIVER**  
39 **OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF VIRGINIA.**

1           (d)    If a state fails to maintain the reciprocal fishing privileges in accordance  
2 with an approved agreement, the Secretary may revoke the reciprocal fishing  
3 privileges accorded to those holding licenses issued by that state by publishing a notice  
4 of revocation in the Maryland Register and notifying the head of the appropriate  
5 licensing agency for that state.

6           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 June 1, 2008.