

## CHAPTER 59

(House Bill 229)

AN ACT concerning

### Fishing – Reciprocal Angler’s Licenses

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

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

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

#### Article – Natural Resources

4–606.

(a) (1) A [person] **RESIDENT OF VIRGINIA** possessing a valid Virginia [or West Virginia] fishing license issued in that [person’s] **RESIDENT’S** name may fish in nontidal waters of the Potomac River **OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF VIRGINIA** without obtaining a Maryland angler’s license.

(2) This ~~subsection~~ **PARAGRAPH** is only effective if Virginia [or West Virginia] enters into and maintains **A** reciprocal [agreements] **AGREEMENT** with the Department, approved by the Secretary, which [allow] **ALLOWS** a person possessing a valid Maryland angler’s license issued in that person’s name to fish from the Virginia [or West Virginia] banks ~~OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF MARYLAND~~ of the Potomac River **OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF MARYLAND** without acquiring a Virginia [or West Virginia] fishing license.

~~(2)~~ **(B)(1) A RESIDENT OF WEST VIRGINIA POSSESSING A VALID WEST VIRGINIA FISHING LICENSE ISSUED IN THAT RESIDENT’S NAME MAY FISH IN NONTIDAL WATERS OF THE POTOMAC RIVER OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF WEST VIRGINIA, INCLUDING THE NORTH BRANCH OF THE POTOMAC RIVER AND THE JENNINGS RANDOLPH RESERVOIR, OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF WEST VIRGINIA WITHOUT OBTAINING A MARYLAND ANGLER’S LICENSE.**

**(2) THIS ~~PARAGRAPH~~ SUBSECTION IS ONLY EFFECTIVE IF WEST VIRGINIA ENTERS INTO AND MAINTAINS A RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT, APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY, WHICH ALLOWS A PERSON POSSESSING A VALID MARYLAND ANGLER'S LICENSE ISSUED IN THAT PERSON'S NAME TO FISH FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA BANKS OF THE POTOMAC RIVER OPPOSITE THE SHORE OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING THE NORTH BRANCH OF THE POTOMAC RIVER AND THE JENNINGS RANDOLPH RESERVOIR, WITHOUT ACQUIRING A WEST VIRGINIA FISHING LICENSE.**

~~(b)~~ **(C)(1)** A ~~person~~ **RESIDENT OF PENNSYLVANIA** possessing a valid Pennsylvania fishing license issued in that ~~person's~~ **RESIDENT'S** name may fish in the waters of the Conowingo and Youghiogheny Reservoirs without obtaining a Maryland angler's license.

**(2)** This subsection is effective only if Pennsylvania first enters into and maintains a reciprocal agreement with the Department, approved by the Secretary, which allows a person possessing a valid Maryland angler's license issued in that person's name to fish on the portion of the Conowingo and Youghiogheny Reservoirs lying within the boundaries of Pennsylvania without acquiring a Pennsylvania fishing license.

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

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

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

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

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

**Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2008.**