



**To:** **Hon. Anita Astorino Kulik**  
Chair  
House Game & Fisheries Committee

**Hon. David M. Maloney, Sr.**  
Republican Chair  
House Game & Fisheries Committee

**Re:** **Senate Bill 344 – Non-Resident College Students and License Fees**

**Position:** **Support**

**Date:** **5/8/2024**

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Honorable Chair Kulik, Republican Chair Maloney, and Honorable Members of the House Game & Fisheries Committee,

My name is Kaleigh Leager, and I am the Senior Coordinator, Mid-Atlantic States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I respectfully urge you to schedule a hearing for Senate Bill 344 (SB 344) and report this legislation favorably out of your committee. SB 344 seeks to allow non-resident college students, who are attending a college or university located within the Commonwealth to be eligible to purchase a hunting and/or furtaking license at the same price as a resident, for no more than four (4) consecutive years. In the Recruiting, Retaining, and Reactivating (R3) space, the undergrad aged demographic has been identified as the age group when we see a loss in continuance in the hunting sports. This legislation aids in R3 efforts of sportsmen and women by providing these students with a more affordable option to participate in our sporting-conservation traditions, allowing them to continue their participation while in school, which is a critical component in ensuring continued funding for wildlife and habitat management for years to come.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Sportsmen and women play an integral and unique role in providing the majority of state-level conservation funding in the United States through the [American System of Conservation Funding](#).

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**Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation**

Since the inception of this System, state fish and wildlife agencies have received over \$71 billion from sportsmen and women nationwide.<sup>1</sup> As the primary funding source for state-based conservation, it is imperative that the next generation of sportsmen and women are successfully recruited and welcomed within our community. Today's college students are tomorrow's wildlife managers, political and business leaders, and members of conservation organizations. Students that actively participate in hunting and fishing are more likely to understand the important role of hunting and fishing in society and to conservation and will be essential to the long-term viability of the outdoor sporting community.

Currently, 31 states have implemented legislation allowing non-resident college students to purchase hunting and/or angling licenses at resident prices (AL, AR, CO, GA, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MI, MS, MO, MT, NH, NY, NC, ND, NV, NE, NM, OH, SC, SD, TN, UT, VT, VA, WV, WI, and WY). Legislation like SB 344 continues to be enacted as legislatures have recognized that the price of out of state hunting licenses can be prohibitively costly for most college students. It isn't a secret that college students are often pressed financially to make ends meet such as rent, groceries, gas, etc., let alone a hunting or fishing license, which results in hunter/angler retention issues. Additionally, if an out of state student realizes the wonderful hunting opportunities that the Commonwealth provides, they may be interested in planting their roots and becoming a resident of the Keystone State after graduating, or at least return to the state as a non-resident license purchaser later in life.

As you are aware, 100% of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Budget is comprised of sportsmen and women generated dollars. In 2023 alone, the sale of hunting licenses contributed \$41.9M in Pennsylvania, which in turn provided an additional \$41.1M through the Pittman-Robertson Act, totaling around \$83M in conservation dollars for the state. Legislation such as SB 344 will assist in the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of college-aged sportsmen and women, which may create additional funds for wildlife and habitat management in the Keystone State for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this critical issue. For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully urge a committee hearing be scheduled for SB 344 and for its favorable report out of your committee.

Sincerely,



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<sup>1</sup> [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Office of Conservation Investment](#)