



SENATOR  
**JAMES LEWIS**  
116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 45

**NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release:*  
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**Legislation sponsored by Lewis to prohibit inmate possession of cellular devices passes through Senate**

INDIANAPOLIS –Legislation sponsored by State Senator Jim Lewis (D-Charlestown) that would prohibit inmates from possessing cellular devices was passed by a 46 to 4 vote in the Senate today.

House Bill (HB) 1100 makes it a Class A misdemeanor for a person incarcerated in a county jail to possess a cellular telephone or other wireless or cellular communications device. The ban would apply to people incarcerated in county jails, including people awaiting trial or returned for additional trials by the Department of Correction. In 2009, there were about 17,500 inmates in county jails in Indiana to whom this bill would apply. The legislation will become effective July 1, 2010.

“Allowing inmates to have cell phones gives them the opportunity to connect with people they shouldn’t have access to,” said Sen. Lewis.

Another bill sponsored by Sen. Lewis passed with a unanimous vote in the Senate. HB 1064 establishes a procedure to collect donations for the Indiana Sportsmen's Benevolence Account when a hunting license is sold. This account covers the cost of processing donated wild game that is used to help feed Indiana’s hungry. The introduced version of the bill was prepared by the Natural Resources Study Committee.

“This bill emphasizes the voluntary donation people have the opportunity to give when purchasing a hunting license,” said Sen. Lewis.

In 2007 the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sold 361,000 hunting licenses, and in 2008 the DNR sold 387,000 licenses. The minimum suggested donation is \$1. The bill is supported by the Food Aid Association and Indiana Wildlife Federation and Sportsmen’s Roundtable.

Both pieces of legislation will now be sent to the governor to be signed into law or vetoed.

For more information on Sen. Lewis, his legislative agenda or other State Senate business, call 1-800-382-9467 or visit [www.senatedemocrats.IN.gov](http://www.senatedemocrats.IN.gov).

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