
SENATE BILL 6281

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Pedersen, Benton, and Conway

Read first time 01/20/14. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring an effective hunter education program;
2 and amending RCW 77.32.155.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.32.155 and 2013 c 23 s 243 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1)(a) When purchasing any hunting license, persons under the age
7 of eighteen shall present certification of completion of a course of
8 instruction of at least ten hours in: (i) The safe handling of
9 firearms((~~τ~~)); (ii) safety((~~τ~~)); (iii) conservation((~~τ~~)); and (iv)
10 sporting/hunting behavior. All persons purchasing any hunting license
11 for the first time, if born after January 1, 1972, shall present such
12 certification.

13 (b)(i) The director ((~~may~~)) shall establish and maintain a program
14 for training persons in: (A) The safe handling of firearms((~~τ~~)); (B)
15 safety; (C) conservation((~~τ~~)); and (D) sporting/hunting behavior and
16 shall prescribe the type of instruction and the qualifications of the
17 instructors.

18 (ii) The director shall, as part of establishing the training

1 program, exempt members of the United States military from the firearms
2 skills portion of any instruction course completed over the internet.

3 ~~((ii))~~ (iii) The director may cooperate with the national rifle
4 association, organized sports/outdoor enthusiasts' groups, or other
5 public or private organizations when establishing the training program.

6 (c) Upon the successful completion of a course established under
7 this section, the trainee shall receive a hunter education certificate
8 signed by an authorized instructor. The certificate is evidence of
9 compliance with this section.

10 (d) The director may accept certificates from other states that
11 persons have successfully completed firearm safety, hunter education,
12 or similar courses as evidence of compliance with this section.

13 (2) In carrying out the program established under subsection
14 (1)(b)(i) of this section, a hunter education instructor may, at the
15 instructor's discretion:

16 (a) Require live-fire training for any person under the age of
17 eighteen unless that person provides proof of having previously
18 received a similar or greater level of live-fire instruction, as
19 determined by the instructor; and

20 (b) Allow a student to use a personal firearm during a course after
21 the firearm has been inspected and approved by the instructor.

22 (3)(a) The director may authorize a once in a lifetime, one license
23 year deferral of hunter education training for individuals who are
24 accompanied by a nondeferred Washington-licensed hunter who has held a
25 Washington hunting license for the prior three years and is over
26 eighteen years of age. The commission shall adopt rules for the
27 administration of this subsection to avoid potential fraud and abuse.

28 (b) The director is authorized to collect an application fee, not
29 to exceed twenty dollars, for obtaining the once in a lifetime, one
30 license year deferral of hunter education training from the department.
31 This fee must be deposited into the fish and wildlife enforcement
32 reward account and must be used exclusively to administer the deferral
33 program created in this subsection.

34 (c) For the purposes of this subsection, "accompanied" means to go
35 along with another person while staying within a range of the other
36 person that permits continual unaided visual and auditory
37 communication.

1 (~~(3)~~) (4) To encourage the participation of an adequate number of
2 instructors for the training program, the commission shall develop
3 nonmonetary incentives available to individuals who commit to serving
4 as an instructor. The incentives may include additional hunting
5 opportunities for instructors.

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