

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1, SENATE

SIXTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2020 BUDGET SESSION

A JOINT RESOLUTION to urge and request the game and fish commission to work with the state superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education to provide firearm and hunter education as a voluntary physical education elective in public schools.

WHEREAS, Wyoming law requires a person born after January 1, 1966, to complete a hunter safety course in order to take any wildlife using firearms on land other than that of the person's family; and

WHEREAS, firearm and hunter education programs teach the state's youth not only how to hunt but also how to use weapons responsibly and how to respect weapons and their capabilities while attempting to demonstrate that using a firearm is not akin to portrayals in entertainment, all of which could reduce the occurrence of severe incidents or mistakes involving a firearm; and

WHEREAS, firearm and hunter programs include instruction in areas such as understanding responsibilities as a sportsperson, understanding hunting ethics, demonstrating the safe handling of firearms, understanding and identifying different types of firearms, ammunition and the correct use of both, practicing safe firearms cleaning and storage in the home, principles of wildlife management, conservation and preservation and understanding how hunters can be means for conservation in wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, familiarity with these principles, equipment, and responsibilities can benefit our society overall and may reduce the number of gun-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, several states including Kansas, Iowa and South Carolina have instituted programs whereby students in their

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middle and high schools may opt to meet their firearm and hunter education obligations through their physical education classes; and

WHEREAS, while these principles and learning experiences are necessary for those people who want to be outdoors hunting, firearm and hunter education classes also provide knowledge and skills that are generally useful across the board and are skills and information that can easily and quickly be relayed through voluntary physical education classes; and

WHEREAS, the game and fish department is currently statutorily tasked with overseeing the firearm and hunter education programs, and partnering with the department of education would allow delivery of training that is consistent with the mission of the game and fish department and would enable the game and fish department to reach out to the next generation of Wyoming sportspersons through programs coordinated throughout the state's schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

Section 1. That the Wyoming Legislature urges and requests the game and fish commission, through the game and fish department, to work with the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education and the department of education to provide hunter education as a physical education elective in the public schools in Wyoming.

ORIGINAL SENATE
JOINT RESOLUTION. SJ0001

ENGROSSED

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Section 2. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the state superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education, the game and fish commission and the director of the game and fish department.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

Chief Clerk