

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0001

Firearm and hunter education.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Driskill, Baldwin, Dockstader,  
Hicks, Moniz and Nethercott and  
Representative(s) Burlingame, Hunt, Lindholm  
and Pownall

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

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

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

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12 WHEREAS, firearm and hunter education programs teach the  
13 state's youth not only how to hunt but also how to use weapons  
14 responsibly and how to respect weapons and their capabilities

1 while attempting to demonstrate that using a firearm is not  
2 akin to playing a video game, all of which could reduce the  
3 occurrence of severe incidents or mistakes involving a  
4 firearm; and

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

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

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20 WHEREAS, several states including Kansas, Iowa and South  
21 Carolina have instituted programs whereby students in their  
22 middle and high schools may opt to meet their firearm and

1 hunter education obligations through their physical education  
2 classes; and

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

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

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

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

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

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(END)