

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5928

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As of February 15, 2001

**Title:** An act relating to hunting safety for children.

**Brief Description:** Requiring supervision of young children when hunting with a firearm.

**Sponsors:** Senators Constantine, Winsley, Costa and Kohl-Welles; by request of Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines: 2/21/01.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS & SHORELINES

**Staff:** David Johnson (786-7754)

**Background:** Individuals under the age of 18 are allowed to possess a firearm in certain limited situations. These include attendance at a hunter's or firearm safety course, target shooting at an established range, and hunting or trapping under a valid license. In order to obtain a valid hunting license, an individual under the age of 18 must first complete a department certified hunter education course. Concern has been expressed that individuals under the age of 14 need the supervision of an adult if they carry a firearm while hunting or trapping.

**Summary of Bill:** To legally hunt or trap with a firearm, an individual under the age of 14 must be under the supervision of his or her parent, guardian, or an adult approved by the parent or guardian to supervise. Unlawful possession of a firearm in violation of this section is a class C felony.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 13, 2001.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.