
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1249

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Blake, Kretz, Orcutt, Takko and Haigh)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to hunter education; amending RCW 77.32.155 and
2 77.15.700; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.32.155 and 2006 c 23 s 1 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 the safe handling of firearms,
9 safety, conservation, and sportsmanship. All persons purchasing any
10 hunting license for the first time, if born after January 1, 1972,
11 shall present such certification.

12 ~~((+2))~~ (b) The director may establish a program for training
13 persons in the safe handling of firearms, conservation, and
14 sportsmanship and shall prescribe the type of instruction and the
15 qualifications of the instructors. The director may cooperate with the
16 National Rifle Association, organized sportsmen's groups, or other
17 public or private organizations when establishing the training program.

18 ~~((+3))~~ (c) Upon the successful completion of a course established

1 under this section, the trainee shall receive a hunter education
2 certificate signed by an authorized instructor. The certificate is
3 evidence of compliance with this section.

4 ~~((+4+))~~ (d) The director may accept certificates from other states
5 that persons have successfully completed firearm safety, hunter
6 education, or similar courses as evidence of compliance with this
7 section.

8 ~~((+5+))~~ (2)(a) The director may authorize a once in a lifetime, one
9 license year deferral of hunter education training for individuals who
10 are accompanied by a nondeferred Washington-licensed hunter who has
11 held a Washington hunting license for the prior three years and is over
12 eighteen years of age. The commission may adopt rules for the
13 administration of this subsection.

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

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

24 (3) To encourage the participation of an adequate number of
25 instructors for the training program, the commission shall develop
26 nonmonetary incentives available to individuals who commit to serving
27 as an instructor. The incentives may include additional hunting
28 opportunities for instructors.

29 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.15.700 and 2005 c 321 s 1 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 The department shall impose revocation and suspension of privileges
32 in the following circumstances:

- 33 (1) Upon conviction, if directed by statute for an offense;
34 (2) Upon conviction, if the department finds that actions of the
35 defendant demonstrated a willful or wanton disregard for conservation
36 of fish or wildlife. Such suspension of privileges may be permanent.

1 This subsection (2) does not apply to violations involving commercial
2 fishing;

3 (3) If a person is convicted twice within ten years for a violation
4 involving unlawful hunting, killing, or possessing big game, the
5 department shall order revocation and suspension of all hunting
6 privileges for two years. RCW 77.12.722 or 77.16.050 as it existed
7 before June 11, 1998, may comprise one of the convictions constituting
8 the basis for revocation and suspension under this subsection;

9 (4)(a) If a person is convicted of an offense, has an uncontested
10 notice of infraction, fails to appear at a hearing to contest an
11 infraction, or is found to have committed an infraction three times in
12 ten years involving any violation of recreational hunting or fishing
13 laws or rules, the department shall order a revocation and suspension
14 of all recreational hunting and fishing privileges for two years.

15 (b) A violation punishable as an infraction counts towards the
16 revocation and suspension of recreational hunting and fishing
17 privileges only where that violation is:

18 (i) Punishable as a crime on July 24, 2005, and is subsequently
19 decriminalized; or

20 (ii) One of the following violations, as they exist on July 24,
21 2005: RCW 77.15.160 (1) or (2); WAC 220-56-116; WAC 220-56-315(11); or
22 WAC 220-56-355 (1) through (4).

23 (c) The commission may, by rule, designate additional infractions
24 that do not count towards the revocation and suspension of recreational
25 hunting and fishing privileges.

26 (5) If either the deferred education licensee or the required
27 nondeferred accompanying person, hunting under the authority of RCW
28 77.32.155(2), is convicted of a violation of this title, except for a
29 violation of RCW 77.15.400 (1) through (3), the department shall revoke
30 all hunting licenses and tags and order a suspension of both the
31 deferred education licensee and the nondeferred accompanying person's
32 hunting privileges for one year.

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