
HOUSE BILL 1249

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Blake, Kretz, Orcutt, Takko and Haigh

Read first time 01/15/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

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 over
11 eighteen years of age. The commission may adopt rules for the
12 administration of this subsection.

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

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

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

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

29 The department shall impose revocation and suspension of privileges
30 in the following circumstances:

31 (1) Upon conviction, if directed by statute for an offense;

32 (2) Upon conviction, if the department finds that actions of the
33 defendant demonstrated a willful or wanton disregard for conservation
34 of fish or wildlife. Such suspension of privileges may be permanent.
35 This subsection (2) does not apply to violations involving commercial
36 fishing;

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

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

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

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

18 (ii) One of the following violations, as they exist on July 24,
19 2005: RCW 77.15.160 (1) or (2); WAC 220-56-116; WAC 220-56-315(11); or
20 WAC 220-56-355 (1) through (4).

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

24 (5) If a person who has a deferral of hunter education training or
25 the accompanying hunter is convicted of a violation of this title while
26 hunting under the authority of RCW 77.32.155(2), the department shall
27 revoke all hunting licenses and tags and order a suspension of the
28 convicted person's hunting privileges for two years.

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