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SENATE BILL 5559

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Jacobsen, Regala, and Fraser

Read first time 01/26/09. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,  
Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing hunting safety; amending RCW  
2 77.32.155; adding a new section to chapter 77.32 RCW; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 77.12 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 79.10  
4 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.32 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 A youth hunter under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by an  
9 individual who is a Washington-licensed hunter, who is not deferred  
10 pursuant to RCW 77.32.155(2), who has held a Washington hunting license  
11 for the prior three years, and who is over eighteen years of age. For  
12 the purposes of this section, "accompanied" means to go along with  
13 another person while staying within a range of the other person that  
14 permits continual unaided visual and auditory communication.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.32.155 and 2007 c 163 s 1 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 (1)(a) When purchasing any hunting license, persons under the age  
18 of eighteen shall present certification of completion of a course of

1 instruction of at least ten hours in the safe handling of firearms,  
2 safety, conservation, and sportsmanship. All persons purchasing any  
3 hunting license for the first time, if born after January 1, 1972,  
4 shall present such certification.

5 (b) The director may establish a program for training persons in  
6 the safe handling of firearms, conservation, and sportsmanship and  
7 shall prescribe the type of instruction and the qualifications of the  
8 instructors. The director may cooperate with the National Rifle  
9 Association, organized sportsmen's groups, or other public or private  
10 organizations when establishing the training program.

11 (c) Upon the successful completion of a course established under  
12 this section, the trainee shall receive a hunter education certificate  
13 signed by an authorized instructor. The certificate is evidence of  
14 compliance with this section.

15 (d) The director may accept certificates from other states that  
16 persons have successfully completed firearm safety, hunter education,  
17 or similar courses as evidence of compliance with this section.

18 (e) A youth hunter under the age of sixteen shall complete a course  
19 established under this section within two years prior to purchasing the  
20 youth hunter's first hunting license in Washington.

21 (2)(a) The director may authorize a once in a lifetime, one license  
22 year deferral of hunter education training for individuals who are  
23 accompanied by a nondeferred Washington-licensed hunter who has held a  
24 Washington hunting license for the prior three years and is over  
25 eighteen years of age. The commission shall adopt rules for the  
26 administration of this subsection to avoid potential fraud and abuse.

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

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

37 (3) To encourage the participation of an adequate number of  
38 instructors for the training program, the commission shall develop

1 nonmonetary incentives available to individuals who commit to serving  
2 as an instructor. The incentives may include additional hunting  
3 opportunities for instructors.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall create and maintain a user-friendly web  
7 site that shows major recreation areas that are also used for hunting  
8 and the appropriate hunting seasons so that the public can access this  
9 information.

10 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
11 specific section, the department shall place signs that include  
12 information regarding hunting seasons on its lands that are used for  
13 both recreation and hunting.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 79.10 RCW  
15 under the subchapter heading "general provisions" to read as follows:

16 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
17 specific section, the department shall place signs that include  
18 information regarding hunting seasons on its lands that are used for  
19 both recreation and hunting.

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