

---

HOUSE BILL 1112

---

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Taylor, McCune, and Shea

1 AN ACT Relating to the requirement to complete a hunter education  
2 course prior to purchasing a hunting license; and amending RCW  
3 77.32.155.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.32.155 and 2009 c 269 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1)(a) When purchasing any hunting license, persons under the age  
8 of eighteen shall present certification of completion of a course of  
9 instruction of at least ten hours in the safe handling of firearms,  
10 safety, conservation, and sportsmanship. All persons purchasing any  
11 hunting license for the first time, if (~~born after January 1, 1972~~)  
12 under the age of twenty-one, shall present such certification.

13 (b)(i) The director may establish a program for training persons in  
14 the safe handling of firearms, conservation, and sportsmanship and  
15 shall prescribe the type of instruction and the qualifications of the  
16 instructors. The director shall, as part of establishing the training  
17 program, exempt members of the United States military from the firearms  
18 skills portion of any instruction course completed over the internet.

1 (ii) The director may cooperate with the National Rifle  
2 Association, organized sportsmen's groups, or other public or private  
3 organizations when establishing the training program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

--- END ---