

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5231**

---

**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2013 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Sheldon, Ericksen, Tom, Kline, Fraser, Hatfield, Billig, Delvin, Rolfes, Shin, and Conway; by request of Department of Fish and Wildlife)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1           AN ACT Relating to ensuring hunter safety; amending RCW 77.32.155;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 77.15 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4           **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.32.155 and 2009 c 269 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           ~~(b)(i) The director may establish a program for training persons in~~  
13 ~~the safe handling of firearms, conservation, and sportsmanship and~~  
14 ~~shall prescribe the type of instruction and the qualifications of the~~  
15 ~~instructors. The director shall, as part of establishing the training~~  
16 ~~program, exempt members of the United States military from the firearms~~  
17 ~~skills portion of any instruction course completed over the internet.~~

18           ~~(ii) The director may cooperate with the National Rifle~~

1 Association, organized sportsmen's groups, or other public or private  
2 organizations when establishing the training program.

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

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

10 (2)) To purchase a Washington hunting license for the first time,  
11 a person born after January 1, 1972, must present proof of successfully  
12 passing a hunter education training course. Proof is either:

13 (a) A hunter education certificate of completion from a course  
14 instructed by or being taught under a contract with the department in  
15 the safe handling of firearms, safety, conservation, and ethical  
16 hunting behavior; or

17 (b) A hunter education certificate from another state or country  
18 whose course is department approved.

19 (2) No one under age eight is eligible to take a hunter education  
20 training course in Washington or to purchase a Washington hunting  
21 license.

22 (3) Members of the United States military who are residents of or  
23 stationed in Washington are exempt from the firearms skills portion of  
24 any hunter education training course instructed by or being taught  
25 under a contract with the department and completed over the internet.

26 (4) Upon the successful completion of a hunter education training  
27 course instructed by or being taught under a contract with the  
28 department in the safe handling of firearms, safety, conservation, and  
29 ethical hunting behavior, the trainee must receive an approved hunter  
30 education certificate.

31 (5) All hunters under the age of fourteen are required to hunt in  
32 compliance with section 2 of this act.

33 (6)(a) The ((director)) department may authorize a once in a  
34 lifetime, one license year deferral of hunter education training for  
35 individuals who are accompanied ((by a nondeferred Washington licensed  
36 hunter who has held a Washington hunting license for the prior three  
37 years and is over eighteen years of age)), while hunting, by a hunter  
38 currently licensed to hunt in Washington, age eighteen or older, and

1 whose Washington license is not a one-year deferral license. The  
2 commission shall adopt rules for the administration of this subsection  
3 to avoid potential fraud and abuse.

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

10 (~~(c)~~) (7) For the purposes of this (~~subsection~~) section,  
11 "accompanied" means to go along with another person while staying  
12 within a range of the other person that permits continual unaided  
13 visual and auditory communication.

14 (~~(3)~~) (8) To encourage the participation of an adequate number of  
15 instructors for the hunter education training (~~program~~) course, the  
16 commission shall develop nonmonetary incentives available to  
17 individuals who commit to serving as an instructor. The incentives may  
18 include additional hunting opportunities for instructors.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 77.15 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 (1) All hunters under age fourteen must be accompanied, while  
22 hunting, by a hunter who is currently licensed to hunt in Washington,  
23 is age eighteen or older, and whose Washington hunting license is not  
24 a one-year deferral license. However, a hunter under the age of  
25 fourteen is not required to be accompanied if he or she is the  
26 immediate family member of a private property owner or lessee and is  
27 hunting on property his or her family owns or is leasing.

28 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
29 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

30 (a) "Accompanied" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 77.32.155.

31 (b) "Immediate family member" has the same meaning as defined in  
32 RCW 77.12.047.

33 (3) A violation of this section is a natural resources infraction  
34 subject to the provisions of chapter 7.84 RCW.

--- END ---