
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1944

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Condotta and Hayes)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting certain law enforcement officers
2 from the hunter education training program; 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 2013 c 23 s 243 are each amended to
6 read 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 sporting/hunting behavior. All persons
11 purchasing any hunting license for the first time, if born after
12 January 1, 1972, shall present such certification.

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

20 (A) Members of the United States military;

1 (B) Current or retired general authority Washington peace
2 officers as defined in RCW 10.93.020;

3 (C) Current or retired limited authority Washington peace
4 officers as defined in RCW 10.93.020, if the officer is duly
5 authorized by his or her employer to carry a concealed pistol;

6 (D) Current or retired specially commissioned Washington peace
7 officers as defined in RCW 10.93.020, if the officer is duly
8 authorized by his or her commissioning agency to carry a concealed
9 pistol; and

10 (E) Current or retired Washington peace officers as defined in
11 RCW 43.101.010 who have met the requirements of RCW 43.101.095 or
12 43.101.157 and whose certification is in good standing or has not
13 been revoked.

14 (ii) The director may cooperate with the national rifle
15 association, organized sports/outdoor enthusiasts' groups, or other
16 public or private organizations when establishing the training
17 program.

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

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

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

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

38 (c) For the purposes of this subsection, "accompanied" means to
39 go along with another person while staying within a range of the

1 other person that permits continual unaided visual and auditory
2 communication.

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

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