
HOUSE BILL 1944

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Condotta and Hayes

Read first time 02/03/17. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

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 and law enforcement officers as defined in RCW
19 9.41.010 from the firearms skills portion of any instruction course
20 completed over the internet.

1 (ii) The director may cooperate with the national rifle
2 association, organized sports/outdoor enthusiasts' groups, or other
3 public or private organizations when establishing the training
4 program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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