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HOUSE BILL NO. 317

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 5, 2016

A BILL to amend and reenact § 29.1-300.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to incentives for completion of hunter education course.

Patron—Lingamfelter

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 29.1-300.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 29.1-300.1. Certification of competence in hunter education; incentives.**

A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section and §§ 29.1-300.4 and 29.1-305.2, no hunting license shall be issued to (i) a person who has never obtained a license to hunt in any state or country, or (ii) a person who is under the age of ~~sixteen~~ 16, unless such a person presents to the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries or one of its authorized license vendors, a certificate of completion in hunter education issued or authorized by the Board under the hunter education program, or proof that he holds the equivalent certificate obtained from an authorized agency or association of another state or country.

B. Although a resident under the age of ~~twelve~~ 12 is not required to obtain a license to hunt, any person under the age of ~~twelve~~ 12, or an individual on his behalf, may purchase a Virginia hunting license or a junior lifetime hunting license pursuant to § 29.1-302.1, without completing a hunter education program as required in subsection A of this section, provided that no person under the age of ~~twelve~~ 12 shall hunt unless accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has, on his person, a valid Virginia hunting license. The junior lifetime hunting license issued to an individual under the age of ~~twelve~~ 12 shall become invalid on the individual's twelfth birthday and remain invalid until certification of competence in hunter education is shown as provided in this section. A lifetime license, indicating the completion of hunter education or an equivalent certificate, shall be reissued at no cost when such proof is provided.

The adult shall be responsible for such supervision. For the purposes of this section, "adult" means the parent or legal guardian of the person under age ~~twelve~~ 12, or such person over the age of ~~eighteen~~ 18 designated by the parent or legal guardian.

"Accompanied and directly supervised" means that the adult is within sight of the person under the age of ~~twelve~~ 12.

C. This section shall not apply to persons while on horseback hunting foxes with hounds but without firearms.

D. *The Board shall adopt regulations that provide incentives for successful completion of a hunter education course to hunters who are not required by law to complete such a course. The regulations may include such incentives as increased bag limits, discounted license fees, or other incentives that the Board deems appropriate.*

INTRODUCED

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