

**First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 15-0868.01 Jery Payne x2157

SENATE BILL 15-226

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Sonnenberg,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Vigil,

Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO QUALIFY**
102 **FOR A LICENSE TO TAKE WILDLIFE.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

Currently, a person has to obtain a hunter education certificate to be issued a license to hunt in Colorado. To get the certificate, the person needs to take a 10-hour hunter education course. The commission may create various ways to meet this requirement, including testing out of it or getting an apprentice certificate. A veteran may obtain a certificate without taking the course if the veteran passes a test. If the division

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

verifies a person's certificate, the person need not carry the certificate while hunting. The bill eliminates the requirement that the hunter education course consist of 10 hours of instruction.

The bill also creates an apprentice program that allows a person who is at least 10 years of age to be issued a temporary certificate without hunter education if he or she is accompanied by a mentor who is at least 18 years of age and meets the certification requirements.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-6-107, **amend** (8);
3 and **add** (10) as follows:

4 **33-6-107. Licensing violations - penalties - rule.** (8) (a) UNLESS
5 OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY COMMISSION RULE, it is unlawful for any
6 person born on or after January 1, 1949, to purchase or obtain any hunting
7 license, hunt, or trap unless the person ~~produces~~ HAS BEEN ISSUED a
8 hunter education certificate ~~issued~~ by the division, attesting to the
9 person's successful completion of a division-certified hunter education
10 course taught by a division-certified instructor ~~which totals not less than~~
11 ~~ten hours of instruction~~ OR EQUIVALENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING
12 RECOGNIZED BY THE DIVISION UNDER PARAGRAPH (b), (c), OR (e) OF THIS
13 SUBSECTION (8) OR SUBSECTION (10) OF THIS SECTION.

14 (b) IN ORDER TO INCREASE HUNTER RECRUITMENT AND
15 RETENTION, THE COMMISSION MAY PROMULGATE A RULE ESTABLISHING
16 ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF HUNTER
17 EDUCATION. THE ALTERNATIVES MAY INCLUDE: OPTIONS TO
18 DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF HUNTING, SAFETY, AND ETHICS; COURSE
19 DELIVERY OPTIONS; ISSUING TEMPORARY OR APPRENTICE CERTIFICATES OF
20 HUNTER EDUCATION; AND AN OPTION TO TEST OUT OF THE HUNTER
21 EDUCATION COURSE.

22 (c) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMULGATE A RULE ALLOWING

1 VETERANS, INCLUDING ACTIVE-DUTY, RESERVE-DUTY, OR NATIONAL
2 GUARD PERSONNEL, TO OBTAIN A HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
3 WITHOUT ATTENDING A HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE IF THE VETERAN
4 SUCCESSFULLY PASSES A TEST-OUT OPTION AS DEVELOPED BY THE
5 COMMISSION. TO QUALIFY, A VETERAN MUST BE DISCHARGED UNDER
6 HONORABLE CONDITIONS.

7 (d) UNLESS THE CERTIFICATE OF HUNTER EDUCATION HAS BEEN
8 VERIFIED BY THE DIVISION, any person required to obtain ~~such~~ a certificate
9 OF HUNTER EDUCATION shall have the certificate on his or her person
10 while hunting, trapping, or taking wildlife.

11 (e) For the purposes of this subsection (8), the division shall
12 recognize, in addition to Colorado hunter education certificates issued on
13 or after January 1, 1985, those Colorado hunter education certificates
14 issued ~~prior to~~ BEFORE January 1, 1985, and any valid temporary hunter
15 education certificate issued by the division, and the division may
16 recognize the hunter education programs of OR CERTIFICATES OF other
17 states or countries as being sufficient for the purposes of purchasing a
18 hunting license in Colorado.

19 (f) Any person who violates this subsection (8) OR ANY RULE
20 IMPLEMENTING THIS SUBSECTION (8) is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
21 conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars and an
22 assessment of ten license suspension points.

23 (10) (a) THE DIVISION MAY ISSUE AN APPRENTICE CERTIFICATE OF
24 HUNTER EDUCATION TO A PERSON WHO:

25 (I) IS AT LEAST TEN YEARS OF AGE;

26 (II) IS BEING TAUGHT TO HUNT BY A MENTOR WHO IS EIGHTEEN
27 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND WHO HOLDS A VALID HUNTER EDUCATION

1 CERTIFICATE OR WHO WAS BORN BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1949; AND

2 (III) COMPLIES WITH ANY REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY RULE
3 OF THE COMMISSION.

4 (b) WHILE HUNTING, A PERSON ISSUED AN APPRENTICE
5 CERTIFICATE OF HUNTER EDUCATION SHALL BE PERSONALLY
6 ACCOMPANIED BY, IN VOICE CONTACT WITH, AND IN VISUAL CONTACT
7 WITH A MENTOR WHO IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND WHO
8 HOLDS A VALID HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE OR WHO WAS BORN
9 BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1949.

10 (c) AN APPRENTICE CERTIFICATE OF HUNTER EDUCATION:

11 (I) MAY BE USED IN LIEU OF A CERTIFICATE OF HUNTER EDUCATION
12 ISSUED UNDER SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS SECTION TO PURCHASE OR OBTAIN
13 A LICENSE TO TAKE WILDLIFE; AND

14 (II) IS VALID FOR NO MORE THAN ONE YEAR AFTER ISSUANCE.

15 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
18 5, 2015, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2015); except that, if a
19 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
20 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
21 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
22 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
23 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.