Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

STATE FISCAL IMPACT

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BILL TOPIC: HUNTER EDUCATION WILDLIFE HUNTING LICENSE

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Increased costs and workload.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

^{*} This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, people born after January 1, 1949, must have a hunter education certificate in order to be licensed to hunt. To be issued a certificate, a person must complete a 10-hour hunter education course. This bill allows the Parks and Wildlife Commission in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish in rule alternative requirements for obtaining a certificate of hunter education. The commission is required to promulgate a rule allowing honorably discharged veterans and active-duty military personnel to obtain a hunter education certificate by passing a test-out option developed by the commission in lieu of the 10-hour hunter education course.

The bill also allows the Division of Parks and Wildlife to issue an apprentice certificate of hunter education to a person who:

- is at least 10 years of age;
- is being taught by a mentor who is 18 year of age or older and holds a valid education certificate or was born before January 1, 1949; and
- complies with requirements established by the commission in rule.

A person with an apprentice certificate of hunter education must be with his or her mentor when hunting.

State Expenditures

This bill is expected to increase workload and costs for the DNR in FY 2015-16 only. The DNR will develop alternative education options, a test-out option for veterans and active duty military, and an apprentice certificate. The commission will promulgate rules to establish the alternative requirements.

Curriculum development for the alternative education options and the test-out option will incur costs. The DNR will also have costs to advertise the new options and produce educational materials. These costs have not been identified and will depend on the rules adopted by the commission. If the costs cannot be addressed within existing appropriations, the DNR will seek funding through the annual budget process.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Natural Resources