

CHAPTER 220

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

SENATE BILL 15-226

BY SENATOR(S) Sonnenberg, Baumgardner, Cooke, Crowder, Donovan, Garcia, Grantham, Guzman, Hill, Hodge, Holbert, Jahn, Johnston, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Roberts, Scheffel, Scott, Todd, Woods; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Vigil, Becker J., Brown, Duran, Fields, Lontine, Lundeen, Mitsch Bush, Rankin, Saine.

**AN ACT**

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

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

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

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

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

(c) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMULGATE A RULE ALLOWING VETERANS, INCLUDING ACTIVE-DUTY, RESERVE-DUTY, OR NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, TO

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

OBTAIN A HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE WITHOUT ATTENDING A HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE IF THE VETERAN SUCCESSFULLY PASSES A TEST-OUT OPTION AS DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION. TO QUALIFY, A VETERAN MUST BE DISCHARGED UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS.

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

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

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

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

(I) IS AT LEAST TEN YEARS OF AGE;

(II) IS BEING TAUGHT TO HUNT BY A MENTOR WHO IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND WHO HOLDS A VALID HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE OR WHO WAS BORN BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1949; AND

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

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

(c) AN APPRENTICE CERTIFICATE OF HUNTER EDUCATION:

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

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

**SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final

adjournment of the general assembly (August 5, 2015, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2015); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 22, 2015