

EHCR 1010

1 THE STATE SENATE  
2 Wednesday, May 18, 2005

3 ENGROSSED

4 House Concurrent  
5 Resolution No. 1010

6 ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1010 - By: MASS of the  
7 House and LERBLANCE of the Senate.

8 A Concurrent Resolution directing the Oklahoma Wildlife  
9 Conservation Commission to adopt rules changing the class  
10 hour requirements for hunter education courses; and  
11 directing distribution.

12 WHEREAS, under current law, Section 4-112A of Title 29 of the  
13 Oklahoma Statutes, every person born on or after January 1, 1972,  
14 upon reaching sixteen years of age through thirty-five years of age,  
15 except for certain exceptions, must successfully complete a hunter  
16 education course prior to purchasing a hunting license or hunting  
17 big game with a firearm and every person under sixteen years of age  
18 must successfully complete a hunter education course prior to  
19 purchasing a deer tag or hunting big game; and

20 WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife Conservation is directed  
21 under the law to provide hunter safety certification free of charge  
22 and to adopt rules necessary for the certification of programs for  
23 hunter safety offered by public or private organizations; and

24 WHEREAS, the hunter education course options approved by the  
25 Department of Wildlife Conservation fall into two basic categories:

1 a traditional ten-hour course given in one day or over several days  
2 and a home study course taken as an Internet or workbook course,  
3 with either option requiring a minimum of four hours of classroom  
4 time and a significant amount of homework; and

5 WHEREAS, the hunter education courses are provided by volunteer  
6 instructors and cover a variety of topics including firearms safety,  
7 hunting regulations, wildlife identification, wildlife conservation  
8 and management, water safety, survival, archery, muzzle-loading, and  
9 hunter responsibility and ethics; and

10 WHEREAS, statistics indicate that mandatory hunter education  
11 courses have not only reduced the number of hunting-related  
12 accidents in Oklahoma, but also in every state where similar  
13 programs are mandated; and

14 WHEREAS, while it is evident that mandatory hunter education  
15 courses are effective in promoting hunting safety, the ten-hour  
16 requirement is not mandated by law but is set by the Department of  
17 Wildlife Conservation based upon the suggestion of volunteer  
18 instructors and national hunter education organizations; and

19 WHEREAS, other states that mandate hunter education have  
20 different course hour requirements; and

21 WHEREAS, it is difficult to hold the attention of young hunters  
22 for a full ten hours of class time; and

1           WHEREAS, while all of the information presented during a hunter  
2 education course is important and necessary, it is feasible that the  
3 course can be completed in eight hours instead of ten.

4           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
5 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE  
6 CONCURRING THEREIN:

7           THAT the Oklahoma Legislature directs the Oklahoma Wildlife  
8 Conservation Commission to adopt rules changing the class hour  
9 requirement for the traditional hunter education course from ten  
10 hours to eight hours.

11          THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma  
12 Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Director of the Oklahoma  
13 Department of Wildlife Conservation.

14 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & WILDLIFE, dated 5-17-05  
15 - DO PASS.