STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2563 By: Jackson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S. 2001, Section 4-112A, which relates to hunter safety certification; modifying age requirements; deleting certification requirement for certain persons hunting certain game; exempting a youth hunter from certification requirements if accompanied by a hunter meeting certain qualifications; requiring certain voice contact while hunting; allowing a youth hunter with certification to hunt small game; allowing certain persons without certification to receive an apprentice hunting license or permit; requiring apprentice hunters to be accompanied by a hunter meeting certain qualifications; requiring certain physical contact while hunting big game; requiring certain voice contact while hunting small game; allowing a resident without certification to purchase an apprentice lifetime license; requiring an apprentice lifetime hunter to comply with certain accompanying hunter requirements; allowing an apprentice lifetime hunter to receive a duplicate license without designation upon certification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2001, Section 4-112A, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-112A. A. No person ~~born on or after January 1, 1972, upon reaching sixteen (16) years of age and through~~ thirty-five (35) years of age~~,~~ <u>or younger</u> may purchase or receive any hunting license or hunting tag unless ~~said~~ <u>the</u> person possesses and can exhibit a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms from the Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Department shall charge no fee for the issuance of such certificates. A hunter safety certificate issued by another state or country and approved by the Department of Wildlife Conservation

shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this section. ~~No person under sixteen (16) years of age may purchase a gun deer tag or hunt large game with any firearm without first obtaining a hunter safety certification.~~

B. A youth hunter under sixteen (16) years of age hunting small game shall be exempt from the hunter safety certification requirements set forth in subsection A of this section if they are accompanied by a licensed hunter twenty-one (21) years of age or older who possesses a certificate of hunter safety or is exempt from the hunter safety certification requirements. The accompanying hunter shall be in sight of the youth hunter and shall be able to communicate with the youth hunter in a normal voice without the aid of any communication device. A youth hunter who possesses a certificate of hunter safety may hunt small game without an accompanying hunter as long the youth hunter carries the certification on their person.

C. Persons sixteen (16) years of age through thirty-five (35) years of age who do not possess a certificate of hunter safety may purchase or receive any hunting license or permit with the designation "apprentice" listed on the hunter education line of the license or permit. A person holding a license or permit with the apprentice designation shall be allowed to hunt only if they are accompanied by a licensed hunter twenty-one (21) years of age or older who possesses a certificate of hunter safety or is exempt from the hunter safety certification requirements or is accompanied by a person exempt from the hunting license requirements. When hunting big game, the accompanying hunter shall be within arm's length of the apprentice hunter or close enough so that the accompanying hunter can immediately take control of the firearm or archery equipment of the apprentice hunter. When hunting small game, the accompanying hunter shall be in sight of the apprentice hunter and

shall be able to communicate with the apprentice hunter in a normal voice without the aid of any communication device.

D. Legal residents who do not possess a certificate of hunter safety may purchase a lifetime hunting license or lifetime combination hunting/fishing license with the designation "apprentice" listed on the hunter education line of the license. A resident holding a lifetime license with the apprentice designation shall be allowed to hunt only if they comply with the accompanying hunter requirements as set forth in subsection C of this section. Upon obtaining a certificate of hunter safety, a resident holding a lifetime license with the apprentice designation shall be entitled to a duplicate license without the apprentice designation.

E. The Department of Wildlife Conservation shall prescribe, adopt, and promulgate rules necessary for the certification of programs for hunter safety offered by other public or private organizations.

~~C.~~ F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person who has an honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces, who is currently on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or a member of the National Guard. In addition, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any person who is a resident landowner or a resident tenant, while hunting game other than deer or antelope, upon land owned or leased by such person. The provisions of this subsection shall not exempt nonresidents owning land in this state nor any person leasing land, for the purpose of hunting.

~~D.~~ G. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by the imposition of a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars ($50.00) nor more than Two Hundred Dollars ($200.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, or by both fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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