STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 1010 By: Mass

AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the hunter education course options approved by the Department of Wildlife Conservation fall into two basic categories: a traditional ten-hour course given in one day or over several days and a home study course taken as an Internet or workbook course, with either option requiring a minimum of four hours of classroom time and a significant amount of homework; and

WHEREAS, the hunter education courses are provided by volunteer instructors and cover a variety of topics including firearms safety, hunting regulations, wildlife identification, wildlife conservation

and management, water safety, survival, archery, muzzle-loading, and hunter responsibility and ethics; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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