

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Committee Substitute for
House Bill No. 2735

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2735 - By: RENEGAR of the House and LERBLANCE of the Senate.

An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S. 2001, Section 4-112A, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 79, O.S.L. 2007 (29 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 4-112A), which relates to requirements for a hunter certificate of competency and safety; changing the age limit for an apprentice hunting license or permit; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2001, Section 4-112A, as amended by
2 Section 1, Chapter 79, O.S.L. 2007 (29 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 4-112A), is amended to
3 read as follows:
4 Section 4-112A. A. No person thirty-five (35) years of age or younger may purchase
5 or receive any hunting license or hunting tag unless the person possesses and can exhibit
6 a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms from the
7 Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Department shall charge no fee for the
8 issuance of certificates. A hunter safety certificate issued by another state or country
9 and approved by the Department of Wildlife Conservation shall be deemed to meet the
10 requirements of this section.

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

10 C. Persons ~~sixteen (16)~~ ten (10) years of age through thirty-five (35) years of age
11 who do not possess a certificate of hunter safety may purchase or receive any hunting
12 license or permit with the designation “apprentice” listed on the hunter education line of
13 the license or permit if required. A person holding a license or permit with the
14 apprentice designation shall be allowed to hunt only if they are accompanied by a
15 licensed hunter twenty-one (21) years of age or older who possesses a certificate of hunter
16 safety or is exempt from the hunter safety certification requirements or is accompanied
17 by a person exempt from the hunting license requirements. When hunting big game, the
18 accompanying hunter shall be within arm’s length of the apprentice hunter or close
19 enough so that the accompanying hunter can immediately take control of the firearm or
20 archery equipment of the apprentice hunter. When hunting small game, the
21 accompanying hunter shall be in sight of the apprentice hunter and shall be able to

1 communicate with the apprentice hunter in a normal voice without the aid of any
2 communication device.

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

11 E. The Department of Wildlife Conservation shall promulgate rules necessary for
12 the certification of programs for hunter safety offered by other public or private
13 organizations.

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

21 G. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be punished
22 by the imposition of a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Two

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.
BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

1 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to
2 exceed thirty (30) days, or by both fine and imprisonment.

3 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
4 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof
5 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, dated 02-25-
7 08 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.