Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

SB 5008

Brief Description: Regarding hunting licensing requirements for members of the military.

Sponsors: Senators Hewitt, Hobbs, Honeyford, Schoesler, Zarelli, Parlette, Stevens, Kilmer, Hatfield, Swecker, Benton and Roach.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Exempts active duty members of the armed forces or the National Guard from the requirement to complete a hunter's education training course.

Hearing Date: 3/17/09

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117)

Background:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is responsible for the operation of a statewide hunter education program. This program, or an equivalent program in another state, must be completed by state hunting license applicants who are age 37 or younger [RCW 77.32.155].

The hunter education program consists of at least 10 hours of instruction in safety, conservation, sportsmanship, and firearm handling. Average classes involve four to six sessions and require the student to pass a written test and demonstrate firearms handling skills. The WDFW offers a home study option or live courses scheduled throughout the state.

Hunter education courses are taught by volunteers, either individually or as a team, who are trained and certified by the WDFW. All instructors must be at least 21 years old and must undergo a background investigation by the WDFW.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

Active duty members of the armed forces or the National Guard may lawfully hunt without completing a hunter's education training course. The exemption from having to complete a training course applies regardless of the age of the hunter.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.