

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 5108

As Passed House:

April 12, 1995

Title: An act relating to hunting licenses.

Brief Description: Concerning the hunter education training program.

Sponsors: Senators Snyder, Winsley and Palmer.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Natural Resources: 3/28/95, 3/28/95 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/12/95, 76-20.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Fuhrman, Chairman; Buck, Vice Chairman; Pennington, Vice Chairman; Basich, Ranking Minority Member; Beeksma; Cairnes; Elliot; Sheldon; Stevens; B. Thomas and Thompson.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Regala, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; G. Fisher; Jacobsen and Romero.

Staff: Rick Anderson (786-7114).

Background: Any person under the age of 18 must receive hunter safety education prior to purchasing a hunting license. As of January 1, 1995, any person born after January 1, 1972 must receive hunter safety instruction if purchasing a hunting license for the first time. Hunter safety education consists of at least ten hours of instruction in safety, conservation, sportsmanship, and the safe handling of firearms.

Summary of Bill: Hunter safety education requirements for persons over 18 years old are deleted.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: Twenty-nine other states have similar legislation and report no problems. The majority of hunting accidents are caused by 20-30 year olds with no hunter safety education.

Testified: Ed Manary, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (neutral); Gary Kasowski, Washington State Hunter Education Instructors Association; and Lyle Lewis, Washington State Hunter Education Instructors Association (oppose).