
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1114

Brief Description: Regarding youth hunting privileges.

Sponsors: Representatives Blake, Orcutt, Green, Springer, VanDeWege, Rolfes, McCune, Simpson, Goodman, Herrera, Warnick and Conway.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires all hunters under the age of 14 to be accompanied by an adult licensed hunter.

Hearing Date: 1/22/09

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117)

Background:

Hunting Requirements

All individuals interested in hunting must be licensed to do so by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Prior to receiving a hunting license from the WDFW, the applicant must complete a course that teaches the safe handling of firearms, firearm safety, conservation, and sportsmanship [RCW 77.32.155].

Prior to 1994, all hunters under the age of 14 were required to be accompanied by a parent, guardian, safety instructor, or other approved adult when they were in possession of a firearm for the purposes of hunting or target practice. Today, there is no minimum age requirement for a hunting license or for enrollment in a hunter's education course.

Firearm Regulations

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.

It is unlawful for a person under the age of 18 to be in possession or control of a firearm [RCW 9.41.040]. However, there are exceptions that create situations where the possession of a firearm by a juvenile is lawful. These exceptions include attendance at a hunter's education course and hunting with a valid license issued by the WDFW [RCW 9.41.040].

Summary of Bill:

All hunters under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a licensed hunter over the age of 18 when hunting for wild birds and animals. The accompanying adult hunter must stay within a range that permits continual unaided visual and auditory communication.

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.