

LEGISLATIVE BILL 871

Approved by the Governor March 3, 2010

Introduced by Fischer, 43.

FOR AN ACT relating to the Game Law; to amend section 37-413, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2009; to change provisions relating to persons accompanying apprentice hunters; and to repeal the original section. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 37-413, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2009, is amended to read:

37-413 (1) For the purpose of establishing and administering a mandatory firearm hunter education program for persons twelve through twenty-nine years of age who hunt with a firearm or crossbow any species of game, game birds, or game animals, the commission shall provide a program of firearm hunter education training leading to obtaining a certificate of successful completion in the safe handling of firearms and shall locate and train volunteer firearm hunter education instructors. The program shall provide a training course having a minimum of (a) ten hours of classroom instruction or (b) independent study on the part of the student sufficient to pass an examination given by the commission followed by such student's participation in a minimum of four hours of practical instruction. The program shall provide instruction in the areas of safe firearms use, shooting and sighting techniques, hunter ethics, game identification, and conservation management. The commission shall issue a firearm hunter education certificate of successful completion to persons having satisfactorily completed a firearm hunter education course accredited by the commission and shall print, purchase, or otherwise acquire materials as necessary for effective program operation. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for carrying out and administering such programs.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person twenty-nine years of age or younger to hunt with a firearm or crossbow any species of game, game birds, or game animals except:

(a) A person under the age of twelve years who is accompanied by a person nineteen years of age or older having a valid hunting permit;

(b) A person twelve through twenty-nine years of age who has on his or her person proof of successful completion of a hunter education course or a firearm hunter education course issued by the person's state or province of residence or by an accredited program recognized by the commission; or

(c) A person twelve through twenty-nine years of age who has on his or her person the appropriate hunting permit and an apprentice hunter education exemption certificate issued by the commission pursuant to subsection (3) of this section and who is accompanied as described in subsection (4) of this section.

(3) An apprentice hunter education exemption certificate may be issued to a person twelve through twenty-nine years of age, once during such person's lifetime with one renewal, upon payment of a fee of five dollars and shall expire at midnight on December 31 of the year for which the apprentice hunter education exemption certificate is issued. The commission may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations allowing for the issuance of apprentice hunter education exemption certificates. All fees collected under this subsection shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the State Game Fund.

(4) For purposes of this section, accompanied means under the direct supervision of a person ~~nineteen~~ who is: (a) Nineteen years of age or older having a valid hunting permit. If such person is nineteen years of age or older but not older than twenty-nine years of age, he or she shall have also completed the required course of instruction to receive a certificate of completion for firearm hunter education if hunting with a firearm or crossbow as described in subdivision (2)(b) of this section or for bow hunter education if hunting with a bow and arrow as described in section 37-414; and (b) ~~who~~ ~~is~~ at all times in unaided visual and verbal communication of no more than two persons having an apprentice hunter education exemption certificate. This subsection does not prohibit the use by such person nineteen years of age or older of ordinary prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses or ordinary hearing instruments.

Sec. 2. Original section 37-413, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2009, is repealed.