

LEGISLATIVE BILL 865

Approved by the Governor March 23, 1974

Introduced by Anderson, 37

AN ACT to amend section 37-104, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1972, relating to game and fish; to provide for establishing and administering a mandatory hunter safety training program for persons under the age of sixteen years; to provide lawful hunting by persons under sixteen years as prescribed; to provide for regulation of antelope hunting; and to repeal the original section.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 37-104, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1972, be amended to read as follows:

~~37-104. The Game and Parks Commission is hereby authorized to coordinate and assist in any nationally recognized voluntary course or courses of hunter safety training, including the training, identification, and location of volunteer nonpaid hunter safety training instructors. The commission is authorized (1) to serve as a clearing-house of information relating to voluntary hunter safety training and (2) to purchase and resell hunter safety training material to any groups requesting same.~~ For the purpose of establishing and administering a mandatory hunter safety training program for persons under the age of sixteen years who hunt, take, or attempt to take any species of game, game birds, or game animals, the Game and Parks Commission is hereby directed to provide a program of hunter safety training leading to obtaining a certificate of competency in the safe handling of firearms and to locate and train volunteer nonpaid hunter safety training instructors. The program shall provide a training course having a minimum of six hours of instruction in the areas of safe firearms use, shooting and sighting techniques, hunter ethics, game identification, and conservation management. The commission is further directed to issue a hunter safety certificate of competency to persons having satisfactorily completed a hunter safety training course accredited by the Game and Parks Commission and to print, purchase, or otherwise acquire materials as necessary for effective program operation.

Commencing January 1, 1976, it shall be unlawful for persons under the age of sixteen years to hunt, take, or attempt to take any species of game, game birds, or

game animals except:

(1) Residents of the State of Nebraska under the age of twelve years who are accompanied by a person nineteen years of age or older having a valid hunting permit;

(2) Residents of the State of Nebraska twelve years through fifteen years of age inclusive who have on their person a hunter safety certificate of competency;

(3) Nonresidents who are accompanied by a person nineteen years of age or older having a valid hunting permit; and

(4) A nonresident who has on or about his person a valid hunter safety certificate issued by his state of residence or a hunter safety certificate issued by any recognized and accredited program as published by the commission.

Sec. 2. The provisions of section 37-215.03 shall apply to the hunting of antelope: Provided, that the issuance of limited antelope hunting permits in any management unit shall not exceed twenty per cent of the regular permits authorized for such antelope management unit.

Sec. 3. That original section 37-104, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1972, is repealed.