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**By: Senator Hafer**

Requested: November 15, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hunter Safety Instructors - Complimentary Consolidated Hunting License**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources or the Department's  
4 designee to give a certain complimentary hunting license to certain individuals who  
5 are authorized to give certain hunter safety instruction, have completed a certain  
6 number of years of service as a hunter safety instructor, and have maintained active  
7 certification as a hunter safety instructor.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Natural Resources  
10 Section 10-301.1  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 10-301.1.

17 (a) (1) (i) On or after July 1, 1977 a person under 18 years of age may not  
18 procure a hunting license or hunt in the State, unless the person has first been issued a  
19 certificate of competency in firearms and hunter safety.

20 (ii) On or after July 1, 1977 a person, regardless of age, may not  
21 procure a hunting license without producing a certificate of competency or a hunting  
22 license issued prior to July 1, 1977 or making out an affidavit that the person had such a  
23 license.

24 (2) This section does not apply to nonresidents of Maryland who purchase a  
25 hunting license in the State to hunt wild waterfowl. However, this does apply to  
26 nonresidents of Maryland who purchase hunting licenses in the State to hunt other  
27 wildlife.

28 (b) (1) The Department shall prescribe a course of instruction in conservation  
29 and in competency and safety in the handling of firearms.

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1 (2) The Department shall designate those persons or agencies authorized to  
2 give the course of instruction, and this designation shall be valid until revoked by the  
3 Department. Those designated persons shall submit to the Department validated listings  
4 naming all persons who have successfully completed the course of instruction.

5 (3) The Department shall issue a certificate of competency and safety to  
6 each person who successfully completes the course of instruction, and the certificate shall  
7 be valid until revoked by the Department.

8 (4) The Department may not issue a certificate of competency and safety to  
9 an individual under the age of 18 unless the individual has completed satisfactorily the  
10 course of instruction, or produces a certificate of competency or a hunting license issued  
11 prior to July 1, 1978 or makes out an affidavit that the individual had such a license.

12 (c) (1) The Department shall institute and coordinate a statewide course of  
13 instruction in conservation and in competency and safety in the handling of firearms, and  
14 in so doing, the Department may cooperate with any political subdivision or with any  
15 reputable organization having as 1 of its objectives the promotion of competency and  
16 safety in the handling of firearms, such as the National Rifle Association and local rod  
17 and gun clubs.

18 (2) The Department may conduct the course in hunter safety and issue the  
19 certificates, using Department personnel or other persons at times and in areas where  
20 other competent agencies are unable or unwilling to meet the demand for instruction.

21 (3) Any similar certificate, or hunting license, issued outside the State by a  
22 governmental agency, shall be accepted as complying with the requirements of paragraph  
23 (1) of the subsection, if the privileges are reciprocal for Maryland residents.

24 (d) The Department shall adopt regulations to provide for the course of  
25 instruction and the issuance of the certificates consistent with the purpose of this section.

26 (e) (1) On or after July 1, 1977 any person who obtains a hunting license by  
27 presenting a fictitious certificate of competency or who attempts to obtain a certificate of  
28 competency or hunting license through fraud shall have his hunting privileges revoked by  
29 the Department for a period not to exceed 1 year.

30 (2) Any applicant who is refused a certificate of competency under this  
31 section may appeal the decision or action of the issuing unit to the Secretary.

32 (f) (1) The Department or a person designated by the Department may issue a  
33 1-year gratis hunting license to a Maryland resident under the age of 16 years who has  
34 successfully completed a hunter safety course.

35 (2) An individual may be issued only one such license during the individual's  
36 lifetime.

37 (G) THE DEPARTMENT OR A PERSON DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
38 SHALL ISSUE A COMPLIMENTARY CONSOLIDATED HUNTING LICENSE EACH YEAR  
39 TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

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1                   (1) HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE THE  
2 COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN CONSERVATION AND IN COMPETENCY AND SAFETY IN  
3 THE HANDLING OF FIREARMS UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION;

4                   (2) HAS COMPLETED AT LEAST 5 YEARS OF SERVICE AS AN INSTRUCTOR  
5 OF THIS COURSE; AND

6                   (3) MAINTAINS ACTIVE CERTIFICATION AS AN INSTRUCTOR OF THIS  
7 COURSE.

8                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 October 1, 1997.