

SENATE BILL 210

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SB 62/97 - EEA

1998 Regular Session  
8r0982

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By: **Senator Hafer**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1998  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 20, 1998

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CHAPTER\_\_\_\_\_

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  
4 Department's designee to give a certain complimentary hunting license to  
5 certain individuals who meet certain requirements relating to providing hunter  
6 safety instruction and who indicate an interest in receiving a complimentary  
7 license.

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 1997 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  
19 a 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

1 license issued prior to July 1, 1977 or making out an affidavit that the person had  
2 such a license.

3 (2) This section does not apply to nonresidents of Maryland who  
4 purchase a hunting license in the State to hunt wild waterfowl. However, this does  
5 apply to nonresidents of Maryland who purchase hunting licenses in the State to hunt  
6 other wildlife.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (e) (1) On or after July 1, 1977 any person who obtains a hunting license by  
39 presenting a fictitious certificate of competency or who attempts to obtain a

1 certificate of competency or hunting license through fraud shall have his hunting  
2 privileges revoked by the Department for a period not to exceed 1 year.

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

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

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

10 (G) THE DEPARTMENT OR A PERSON DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
11 SHALL ISSUE A COMPLIMENTARY CONSOLIDATED HUNTING LICENSE EACH YEAR TO  
12 AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

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

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

18 (3) MAINTAINS ACTIVE CERTIFICATION AS AN INSTRUCTOR OF THIS  
19 COURSE;

20 (4) HAS TAUGHT TWO HUNTER SAFETY COURSES DURING THE FISCAL  
21 YEAR PRECEDING THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE; AND

22 (5) HAS INDICATED TO THE DEPARTMENT AN INTEREST IN RECEIVING A  
23 COMPLIMENTARY CONSOLIDATED HUNTING LICENSE.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 1998.