

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1928

By: DeWitt of the House

and

Fields of the Senate

An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S. 2011, Section 4-112A, which relates to hunting licenses; making certain persons ineligible for certain testing and certification; modifying age restrictions for apprentice licenses; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Hunting licenses

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 4-112A, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-112A. A. No person thirty (30) years of age or younger may purchase or receive any hunting license or hunting tag unless the person possesses and can exhibit a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms from the Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Department shall charge no fee for the issuance of certificates. Persons under ten (10) years of age may take the hunter education course but are not eligible to be tested for and receive hunter safety certification. A hunter safety certificate issued by another state or country and approved by the Department of Wildlife Conservation shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this section.

B. A youth hunter under sixteen (16) years of age hunting small game shall be exempt from the hunter safety certification requirements set forth in subsection A of this section if they are accompanied by a licensed hunter eighteen (18) years of age or older

who possesses a certificate of hunter safety or is exempt from the hunter safety certification requirements. The accompanying hunter shall be in sight of the youth hunter and shall be able to communicate with the youth hunter in a normal voice without the aid of any communication device. A youth hunter who possesses a certificate of hunter safety may hunt small game without an accompanying hunter as long as the youth hunter carries the certification on their person.

C. Persons ~~eight (8) years of age through~~ under thirty (30) years of age who do not possess a certificate of hunter safety may purchase or receive any hunting license or permit which is required by law with the designation "apprentice" listed on the hunter education line of the license or permit. A person holding a license or permit with the apprentice designation shall be allowed to hunt only if they are accompanied by a licensed hunter eighteen (18) years of age or older who possesses a certificate of hunter safety or is exempt from the hunter safety certification requirements or is accompanied by a person exempt from the hunting license requirements. In addition, all persons under ten (10) years of age, when hunting big game, regardless of hunter safety certification, shall be accompanied by a licensed hunter eighteen (18) years of age or older who possesses a certificate of hunter safety or is exempt from the hunter safety certification requirements or is accompanied by a person exempt from the hunting license requirement. When hunting big game, the accompanying hunter shall be within arm's length of the apprentice hunter or close enough so that the accompanying hunter can immediately take control of the firearm or archery equipment of the apprentice hunter. When hunting small game, the accompanying hunter shall be in sight of the apprentice hunter and shall be able to communicate with the apprentice hunter in a normal voice without the aid of any communication device.

D. Legal residents who do not possess a certificate of hunter safety may purchase a lifetime hunting license or lifetime combination hunting/fishing license with the designation "apprentice" listed on the hunter education line of the license. A resident holding a lifetime license with the apprentice designation shall be allowed to hunt only if they comply with the accompanying hunter requirements as set forth in subsection C of this section. Upon obtaining a certificate of hunter safety, a resident holding a lifetime license with the apprentice designation shall be entitled to renew their license without the apprentice designation.

E. The Department of Wildlife Conservation shall promulgate rules necessary for the certification of programs for hunter safety offered by other public or private organizations.

F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person who has an honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces, who is currently on active duty in the United States Armed Forces or a member of the National Guard. In addition, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any person who is a resident landowner or a resident tenant, while hunting game other than deer or antelope, upon land owned or leased by the person. The provisions of this subsection shall not exempt nonresidents owning land in this state nor any person leasing land, for the purpose of hunting.

G. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by the imposition of a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, or by both fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2013.

Passed the House of Representatives the 18th day of February, 2013.

Mike Jack
Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 16th day of April, 2013.

J. Driffin
Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 17th
day of April, 20 13, at 5:43 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Kerkwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 22
day of April, 20 13, at 3:13 o'clock P M.

Mary Fallin
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 22nd
day of April, 20 13, at 4:30 o'clock P. M.

By: Gregory V. Pannone