

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

S

1

SENATE BILL 338

Short Title: Hunter Safety Education Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Barker; and Daniel.

Referred to: Marine Resources and Wildlife.

March 6, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE FIRST TIME BUYERS OF HUNTING LICENSES TO
2 COMPLETE A HUNTER SAFETY COURSE, AND TO REQUIRE THAT SUCH
3 COURSE BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THIS
4 STATE.
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
8 section 113-270.1A to read as follows:

9 **"§ 113-270.1A. Hunter Safety Course Required.**

10 (a) On or after July 1, 1990, a person, regardless of age, may not procure a hunting
11 license or hunt in this State without producing a certificate of competency or a hunting
12 license issued prior to July 1, 1990, or making out an affidavit that he had such a
13 license.

14 (b) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall institute and coordinate a
15 statewide course of instruction in hunter ethics, wildlife laws and regulations, and
16 competency and safety in the handling of firearms, and in so doing, may cooperate with
17 any political subdivision, or with any reputable organization having as one of its
18 objectives the promotion of competency and safety in the handling of firearms,
19 including local rod and gun clubs.

20 (1) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall designate those persons or
21 agencies authorized to give the course of instruction, and this
22 designation shall be valid until revoked by the Commission. Those
23 designated persons shall submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission

1 validated listings naming all persons who have successfully completed
2 the course of instruction.

3 (2) The Wildlife Resources Commission may conduct the course in hunter
4 safety, using Commission personnel or other persons at times and in
5 areas where other competent agencies are unable or unwilling to meet
6 the demand for instruction.

7 (3) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall issue a certificate of
8 competency and safety to each person who successfully completes the
9 course of instruction, and the certificate shall be valid until revoked by
10 the Commission.

11 (4) Any similar certificate issued outside the State by a governmental
12 agency, shall be accepted as complying with the requirements of
13 subsection (a) above, if the privileges are reciprocal for North Carolina
14 residents.

15 (5) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall adopt rules and regulations
16 to provide for the course of instruction and the issuance of the
17 certificates consistent with the purpose of this section.

18 (c) On or after July 1, 1990, any person who obtains a hunting license by
19 presenting a fictitious certificate of competency or who attempts to obtain a certificate
20 of competency or hunting license through fraud shall have his hunting privileges
21 revoked by the Wildlife Resources Commission for a period not to exceed one year.

22 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the sale of lifetime
23 licenses as provided in G.S. 113-270.2(c)(1a). Pending satisfactory completion of the
24 hunter safety course, persons who possess such licenses may exercise the privileges
25 thereof when accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age who is licensed to hunt in
26 this State. For the purpose of this section, 'accompanied' is defined as being able to
27 take immediate control of the hunting device."

28 Sec. 2. G.S. 113-270.2 is amended by adding a new subsection (a1) to read
29 as follows:

30 "(a1) Except as provided by G.S. 113-270.1A(d), on or after July 1, 1990, a person,
31 regardless of age, may not procure a hunting license or hunt in this State, without
32 producing a certificate of competency pursuant to G.S. 113-270.1A or a hunting license
33 issued prior to July 1, 1989, or making out an affidavit that he had such a license."

34 Sec. 3. Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
35 Article 14A to read as follows:

36 **"ARTICLE 14A.**

37 **"HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION.**

38 **"§ 115C-217. Instruction in hunter safety education.**

39 There shall be organized and administered under the general supervision of the
40 Superintendent of Public Instruction a program of hunter safety education in the public
41 schools of this State, said courses to be noncredit courses taught by instructors approved
42 by the Department of Public Instruction.

43 **"§ 115C-217.1. Boards of Education required to provide courses in hunter safety.**

1 The State Board of Education and local boards of education shall provide as a part of
2 the program of the public high schools in this State a course of training and instruction
3 in hunter ethics, wildlife laws and regulations, and competency and safety in the
4 handling of firearms and shall make such courses available for public school students,
5 nonpublic school students and out-of-school youths under 18 years of age. Such course
6 shall be in conformance with the provisions of G.S. 113-270.1A."

7 Sec. 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 1990.