

Proposal 60

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Beginning July 1, 2018, all hunters 12 years of age or older must have completed a hunter education course to hunt in the state of Alaska. Hunters under 12 years of age must be accompanied by someone who has successfully completed a hunter education course.

Recommendation :

The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal.

Background

- ▣ Hunter education was established in Alaska in 1973 and since then over 50,000 students have received their hunter education certification.
- ▣ Bowhunter education, muzzleloader education, and crossbow education have also become part of the certification courses offered by the ADF&G Hunter Information and Training (HIT) Program.

Background

- ▣ **Prior to August 2002, the hunter education certification was not required for hunters wishing to hunt in Alaska, except for those using the**
 - Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge
 - Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge
 - Eagle River Management Area (black bear and small game)

Background

- ▣ In 1997, the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) passed regulations requiring hunter education certification for big game hunting in Game Management Units (GMUs) 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20. These regulations took effect in August 2002.

Background

- Here is a guestimate of how much it would cost for one year to implement mandatory hunter ed statewide for people that are 12 years old or older.

Description	Cost
Personnel	
Western (3 F&W Tech III for 6 months each)	\$54,000
Northern (2 F&W Tech III for 6 months each)	\$36,000
Southeast (2 F&W Tech II for 6 months each)	\$36,000
Road System (where it's currently mandatory for younger people) (2 F&W Tech II for 6 months)	\$36,000
Current staff (OT to conduct new volunteer instructor trainings, coordinate current and additional courses, additional administrative needs)	\$20,000
Travel for staff and volunteers to conduct classes and new instructor trainings	\$50,000
Additional hunter ed training kits (.22 rifles, non-functional firearms, field course props)	\$50,000
Additional vehicle for roadssystem	\$40,000
Computers for all new staff	\$15,000
Additional printed materials	\$25,000
Total:	\$362,000

Background

- ▣ While the department is in favor of certification courses to educate hunters and decrease firearm incidents, the sheer size of Alaska would make it extremely difficult to reach every hunter 12 years of age or older.
- ▣ Should this proposal be adopted, the department recommends that implementation be postponed for +2 years

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