

House Bill 2566

Sponsored by Representative WITT (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt adult hunter mentoring program.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to hunter mentoring programs; amending ORS 497.360.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 497.360 is amended to read:

497.360. (1) No person younger than 18 years of age shall hunt wildlife, except on the person's own land or land owned by the parent or legal guardian of the person, unless the person:

(a) Has in possession a certificate, issued by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission or by an agency of another state, stating that the person has satisfactorily completed a course prescribed or approved by the commission in the safe handling of lawful hunting weapons; or

(b) Is participating in a supervised hunt as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) The commission, by rule, shall prescribe and administer a hunter safety training program to provide instruction in the safe handling of lawful hunting weapons. The program may also include instruction on wildlife and natural resource conservation, first aid and survival and such other subjects as the commission considers desirable to promote good outdoor conduct and respect for the rights and property of others. The commission may cooperate and enter into agreements with other public or private agencies and individuals in carrying out the provisions of this subsection. The Department of State Police and the Department of Education are directed to cooperate with the commission in carrying out the provisions of this section.

(3)(a) The commission, by rule, shall prescribe and administer a youth hunter mentoring program that allows a person who is between nine and 14 years of age to hunt while in the presence of a supervisory hunter who is 21 years of age or older and who holds the appropriate licenses, tags and permits issued pursuant to the wildlife laws. Only one lawful hunting weapon may be carried during a supervised hunt under this subsection. A person participating in a supervised hunt under this subsection may hunt wildlife under the same conditions applicable to the supervisory hunter's licenses, tags and permits.

(b) The commission, by rule, may prescribe any relevant safety and ethical standards for participation in a supervised hunt under this subsection.

(4) The commission, by rule, may prescribe and administer an adult hunter mentoring program.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.