

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SB 5108

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**As Reported By House Committee On:**  
Natural Resources

**Title:** An act relating to hunting licenses.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the hunter education training program.

**Sponsors:** Senators Snyder, Winsley and Palmer.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Natural Resources: 3/28/95, 3/28/95 [DP].

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Fuhrman, Chairman; Buck, Vice Chairman; Pennington, Vice Chairman; Basich, Ranking Minority Member; Beeksma; Cairnes; Elliot; Sheldon; Stevens; B. Thomas and Thompson.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Regala, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; G. Fisher; Jacobsen and Romero.

**Staff:** Rick Anderson (786-7114).

**Background:** Any person under the age of 18 must receive hunter safety education prior to purchasing a hunting license. As of January 1, 1995, any person born after January 1, 1972 must receive hunter safety instruction if purchasing a hunting license for the first time. Hunter safety education consists of at least ten hours of instruction in safety, conservation, sportsmanship, and the safe handling of firearms.

**Summary of Bill:** Hunter safety education requirements for persons over 18 years old are deleted.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** None.

**Testimony Against:** Twenty-nine other states have similar legislation and report no problems. The majority of hunting accidents are caused by 20-30 year olds with no hunter safety education.

**Testified:** Ed Manary, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (neutral); Gary Kasowski, Washington State Hunter Education Instructors Association; and Lyle Lewis, Washington State Hunter Education Instructors Association (oppose).