

**RCW 77.32.155**

**Hunter education training program — Certificate —  
Deferral — Adoption of rules — Fee.**

(1)(a) When purchasing any hunting license, persons under the age of eighteen shall present certification of completion of a course of instruction of at least ten hours in the safe handling of firearms, safety, conservation, and sportsmanship. All persons purchasing any hunting license for the first time, if born after January 1, 1972, shall present such certification.

(b) The director may establish a program for training persons in the safe handling of firearms, conservation, and sportsmanship and shall prescribe the type of instruction and the qualifications of the instructors. The director may cooperate with the National Rifle Association, organized sportsmen's groups, or other public or private organizations when establishing the training program.

(c) Volunteer instructors or organizations conducting hunter education training activities established in this subsection are authorized to accept donations of money and equipment to provide additional resources in support of their student training program services. Volunteer instructors or organizations accepting hunter education donations under this title are exempt from the provisions of state ethics laws regarding donations. The use of donations to instructors or organizations shall be tracked in a manner approved by the director. There shall be no agency administrative fees charged against donations received directly by certified hunter education instructors or organizations.

(d) Upon the successful completion of a course established under this section, the trainee shall receive an approved hunter education certificate ~~signed by an authorized instructor~~. The certificate is evidence of compliance with this section.

(e) The director may accept certificates from other states that persons have successfully completed firearm safety, hunter education, or similar courses as evidence of compliance with this section.

(f) The director is authorized to collect an application fee, not to exceed ten dollars, for providing a duplicate hunter education training certificate. This fee must be deposited into the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account and must be used exclusively to offset agency-approved costs incurred by instructors conducting hunter education training programs or to provide application fees for indigent students.

(2)(a) The director may authorize a once in a lifetime, one license year deferral of hunter education training for individuals who are accompanied by a nondeferred Washington-licensed hunter who has held a Washington hunting license for the prior three years and is over eighteen years of age. The commission shall adopt rules for the administration of this subsection to avoid potential fraud and abuse.

(b) The director is authorized to collect an application fee, not to exceed twenty dollars, for obtaining the once in a lifetime, one license year deferral of hunter education training from the department. This fee must be deposited into the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account and must be used exclusively to administer the deferral program created in this subsection.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection, "accompanied" means to go along with another person while staying within a range of the other person that permits continual unaided visual and auditory communication.

(3) To encourage the participation of an adequate number of instructors for the training program, the commission shall develop nonmonetary incentives available to individuals who commit to serving as an instructor. The incentives may include additional hunting opportunities for instructors.