

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 6 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Maurer, Smith P., Roblan
Nays: 0
Exc.: Boquist
Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish by rule a youth hunter mentoring program. Allows person between nine and 14 years of age to hunt while in presence of supervisory hunter who is 21 years of age or older and who holds appropriate licenses, tag and permits. Allows only one lawful hunting weapon to be carried on supervised hunt. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Appropriateness of nine to 14 year old age range for program
- Decline in issuance of hunting licenses
- Continuation of hunter education program beginning at age 14
- Other states' mentor programs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Fish and Wildlife has experienced a decline in issuance of hunting and angling licenses during recent years. Proponents of Senate Bill 892-A believe a youth hunter mentoring program will encourage participation in hunting among youth and expand the base of future hunting and fishing enthusiasts.

Senate Bill 892-A allows persons nine to fourteen years of age to hunt when they are accompanied by a supervisory hunter who is 21 years of age or older and who holds the appropriate licenses, tags or permits. The measure specifies that only one lawful hunting weapon may be carried during a supervised hunt. The child participating in the supervised hunt may hunt wildlife under the same conditions applicable to the supervisory hunter's licenses, tags and permits. The measure allows the commission to adopt rules that prescribe any relevant safety and ethical standards for a supervised hunt.