

1 hunting license or stamp may be issued to any person who was born
2 on or after January 1, 1975, unless the person submits to the
3 person authorized to issue hunting licenses a certificate of
4 training as provided in this section or proof of completion of any
5 course which promotes as a major objective safety in the handling
6 of firearms and of bow and arrows and which course is approved by
7 the hunter education association or the director, or provides a
8 State of West Virginia resident or nonresident hunting license from
9 the previous hunting season that displays a certification of
10 training, or attests that a hunter training course has been
11 completed when purchasing a license or stamp online: Provided,
12 That a person issued a Class AH apprentice hunting and trapping
13 license pursuant to the provisions of section forty-two-y of this
14 article is exempt from the hunter training requirements set forth
15 in this subsection and subsection (b) of this section.

16 (b) The director shall establish a course in the safe handling
17 of firearms and of bows and arrows, such as the course approved by
18 the hunter education association. This course shall be given at
19 least once per year in each county in this state and shall be
20 taught by instructors certified by the director. In establishing
21 and conducting this course, the director may cooperate with any
22 reputable association or organization which promotes as a major
23 objective safety in the handling of firearms and of bows and
24 arrows: *Provided,* That any person holding a Class A-L or AB-L

1 lifetime resident license obtained prior to his or her fifteenth
2 birthday shall be required to obtain a certificate of training as
3 provided in this section before hunting or trapping pursuant to
4 said license. This course of instruction shall be offered without
5 charge, except for materials or ammunition consumed. Upon
6 satisfactory completion of the course, each person instructed in
7 the course shall be issued a certificate of training for the
8 purposes of complying with the requirements of subsection (a) of
9 this section. The certificate shall be in the form prescribed by
10 the director and shall be valid for hunting license application
11 purposes.

12 (c) (1) Upon satisfactory completion of this course, any
13 person whose hunting license has been revoked for a violation of
14 the provisions of this chapter may petition the director for a
15 reduction of his or her revocation time. However, under no
16 circumstances may the time be reduced to less than one year.

17 (2) Successful completion of this course shall be required to
18 consider the reinstatement of a hunting license of any person whose
19 license has been revoked due to a conviction for negligent shooting
20 of a human being or of livestock under the provisions of section
21 fifty-seven of this article, and who petitions the director for an
22 early reinstatement of his or her hunting privileges. Such a
23 petitioner shall also comply with the other requirements for
24 consideration of reinstatement contained in section thirty-eight of

1 this article.

2 (d) It is unlawful for any person to falsify, alter, forge,
3 counterfeit or utter a certificate of training. Any person who
4 violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a
5 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less
6 than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, or confined in jail for a period
7 not to exceed one year, or both fined and imprisoned.

8 (e) Nothing herein contained shall mandate that any county
9 school district in the state be responsible for implementing hunter
10 safety education programs.

11 **§20-2-42y. Class AH apprentice hunting and trapping license;**
12 **penalties.**

13 (a) A Class AH license is an apprentice hunting and trapping
14 license and entitles the licensee to hunt and trap for all legal
15 species of wild animals and wild birds. The license shall be a base
16 license and shall entitle the licensee to a deferral of the proof
17 of a certificate of training required under the provisions of
18 section thirty-a of this article. The apprentice hunting and
19 trapping licensee shall not hunt or trap unless he or she is in
20 possession of all other required documentation and stamps and is
21 accompanied and directly supervised by an adult eighteen years of
22 age or older who either possesses a valid West Virginia hunting
23 license or has the lawful privilege to hunt pursuant to the
24 provisions of this chapter. For purposes of this section,

1 "accompanied and directly supervised" means that a person maintains
2 a close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction
3 to, and can assume control of the firearm from the apprentice
4 hunter. The cost of the license shall be \$19 for a resident and
5 \$119 for a nonresident. An apprentice hunting and trapping license
6 is a yearly license and may only be purchased electronically in a
7 manner designated by the director. No person may purchase more than
8 three apprentice hunting and fishing licenses during his or her
9 lifetime, and such licenses must be purchased during a period of
10 five consecutive years which begin to run on the first day of the
11 calendar year in which the first license is purchased. The director
12 may promulgate rules in accordance with chapter twenty-nine-a of
13 this code regulating the issuance of apprentice hunting and
14 trapping licenses.

15 (b) Any person violating the provisions of this section is
16 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
17 subject to the punishment and penalties prescribed in section nine,
18 article seven of this chapter.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create an apprentice hunting license process which would allow new hunters to purchase a limited number of a new class of hunting license which would permit hunting with supervision prior to obtaining a certificate of training.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.

§20-2-42y is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.