

Senate Bill 332

By: Senators Harper of the 7th, Heath of the 31st, Brass of the 28th, Ginn of the 47th, Burke of the 11th and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to hunting, trapping, or fishing, so as to provide for an outdoor mentor program
3 within the Department of Natural Resources; to provide for definitions; to provide for
4 program criteria and terms and conditions; to provide for outdoor passports; to provide for
5 findings; to provide for a fee for nonresident youth sportsman's licenses; to provide for
6 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 hunting, trapping, or fishing, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "27-2-4.5.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Outdoor mentee' means any resident to whom the department has never issued both
14 a hunting and fishing license, or an outdoor passport, under this chapter.

15 (2) 'Outdoor mentor' means any individual who is 18 years of age or older and who has
16 a current license that allows hunting and fishing pursuant to this chapter.

17 (3) 'Outdoor passport' means a reduced cost license issued by the department which
18 licenses or permits noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges across all categories
19 of hunting and fishing.

20 (b) The General Assembly finds that an outdoor mentor program can spark interest in
21 hunting and fishing as lifelong activities; provide safe, memorable, and positive
22 introductions for first-time hunting and fishing experiences; and promote safe and ethical
23 hunting and fishing practices.

24 (c) The department shall establish and maintain an outdoor mentor program that enables
25 experienced hunters and fishers to mentor new hunters and fishers in safe, ethical, and

26 responsible hunting and fishing practices. In furtherance of such outdoor mentor program,
 27 the department:

28 (1) Shall establish a mentor education course that provides instruction to outdoor
 29 mentors, the completion of which shall be required before he or she may mentor an
 30 outdoor mentee under the program;

31 (2) Shall work with partners to develop incentives for outdoor mentors and may include
 32 reduced license fees for an outdoor mentor participating in the program;

33 (3) Shall issue outdoor mentees participating in the program an outdoor passport which
 34 shall expire one year after issuance; and

35 (4) Shall prepare necessary applications and impose any further criteria and terms and
 36 conditions not inconsistent with this Code section for implementation of the program."

37 **SECTION 2.**

38 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 27-2-5, relating
 39 to required hunter education courses, as follows:

40 "(e) Any person applying for an annual or multiyear nonresident hunting/fishing license
 41 may provide a certificate of completion or such other evidence of completion the
 42 department deems acceptable of the official hunter education or hunter safety course of
 43 such person's state of residence if that course shall have been approved by the department.
 44 No one applying for an outdoor passport, a hunting license of less than one year in
 45 duration, or ~~for~~ a lifetime license shall be required to exhibit such a certificate or to
 46 complete a hunter education course in order to obtain the license. Persons holding a
 47 lifetime license shall complete an official hunter education or hunter safety course and
 48 display proof of completion as specified by the department in order to hunt unless
 49 otherwise exempted by this title."

50 **SECTION 3.**

51 Said article is further amended by adding a new subparagraph to paragraph (3) of Code
 52 Section 27-2-23, relating to hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses, permits, tags, and stamp
 53 fees, as follows:

54 "(H) Nonresident youth sportsman's license Annual \$50.00
 55 for 15 years of age and under"

56 **SECTION 4.**

57 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.