

Assembly Bill 872

Published
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CHAPTER 456

AN ACT to create 29.225 of the statutes, relating to an instruction program in the use of firearms.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

29.225 of the statutes is created to read:

29.225 SAFE USE OF FIREARMS, INSTRUCTIONS IN USING.
(1) RULES AND REGULATIONS. The state conservation commission shall publish rules and regulations establishing a state-wide program of instruction in the safe use of firearms. Such regulations shall provide for courses of instruction in every municipality or school district in this state by the

commission in co-operation with qualified individuals, organizations, groups, associations and any private or public corporations or political subdivisions of the state, the United States or any federal agency. The courses shall instruct the youth of the state in the commonly accepted principles of safety in hunting and in the handling of all types of common hunting firearms.

(2) **CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.** The commission, conservation director or any authorized agent or deputy of the commission shall issue a certificate of satisfactory completion of the courses of instruction required herein to any person entitled thereto. The form and content of the certificate shall be as prescribed by the commission.

(3) **ADMINISTRATION, SUPERVISION AND ENFORCEMENT.** The chief officer of the law enforcement division of the commission shall be the commission's authorized agent to administer, supervise, and enforce this section. The commission shall appoint a qualified person from the law enforcement division, under the classified service, as supervisor of hunting safety and shall prescribe his duties and responsibilities. The commission shall provide the law enforcement agency with such assistance and clerical help as the commission determines necessary. The commission may appoint one or more county directors of hunting safety in each county of the state. Such county director shall be responsible to the division of law enforcement, and shall serve on a voluntary basis without compensation. The supervisor of the law enforcement division may appoint such instructors as may be necessary to carry out the purposes hereof.

(4) **USE OF FIREARMS IN TAKING WILD ANIMALS; WHEN FORBIDDEN.** Except as hereinafter provided, it is unlawful for any person under the age of 16, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian, to have in his possession or under his control any firearm of any kind for hunting or target practice or any other purpose. Any person between the ages of 14 and 16 years who has a certificate herein provided for is exempted from this section and from the age limitations of s. 29.09 (1). No certificate shall be issued to a person under 12 years of age.

(5) **FEES.** For the purpose of defraying the expenses of the program within the state, the division of law enforcement of the commission shall collect a sum not to exceed \$2.50 from each person who has received the courses of instruction herein provided, and shall deposit the money with the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the law enforcement agency budget. Counties are authorized to defray expenses for materials and supplies necessary to carry out the firearm safety program from moneys previously deposited with the county treasurers for this purpose, as long as such funds exist, and thereafter the division of law enforcement shall supply materials necessary for the volunteer instructors and directors to carry out the program.

(6) **INSURANCE PROTECTION.** The commission shall procure insurance against all liability incurred by it or any of its members, officers, directors, supervisors, agents or employes or by any such county supervisors, county directors and instructors, by reason of any claim for bodily injury, death or property damage made against the commission or any of its members, officers, directors, supervisors, agents, employes or against such county directors, county supervisors and instructors, by reason of the performance of their duties in connection with carrying out this section. Such policy of insurance shall contain a waiver of governmental immunity, and such immunity shall not be raised as a defense by the insured, the state, the city, the school district or the county.

Approved December 9, 1965.