

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Under current hunting law, a person born in 1980 or thereafter who wishes to buy any firearms-related hunting license in Minnesota must possess a *firearms safety certificate* or the equivalent.

A firearms safety certificate, effective for the person's lifetime, may be obtained by any person aged 12 or older who successfully completes a firearms safety course offered by the DNR. The typical course, taught by a volunteer instructor, is comprised of about 12 hours of classroom instruction, followed by a brief *field and shooting exercise*, supervised by volunteer instructors throughout the state.

This bill, as amended, would exempt military veterans from that *field/shooting exercise*, for purposes of the earning the firearms hunting safety certificate.

However, as under current law the veteran would still be responsible the full coursework portion required for obtaining the safety certificate, which like any other adult, the veteran could get through either the DNR's IHEA online instructional course and online exams, or by attending a local firearms safety course taught by volunteer instructors.

This bill would be effective the day following final enactment.

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Section

Notes: A number of other states and provinces currently rely on the online IHEA course, just as Minnesota law and DNR practice currently allows, for the coursework portion of the safety training program. And at least one state - Alabama - dispenses entirely with any *field and shooting exercise* (not just for military veterans, but for all its residents, age 12 and up.)

IHEA is the International Hunter Education Association.