

Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 5

By: Allen, Dossett (J.J.),
Jett, Bullard, Bergstrom
and Stephens of the Senate

and

Wallace, Frix and Luttrell
of the House

A Concurrent Resolution encouraging Oklahoma public schools to incorporate the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation-approved hunter education course into their middle or high school curriculums; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is blessed with abundant resources and tremendous natural beauty. The state's wildlife resources have provided a source of food for generations of Oklahomans, as well as ample opportunity for Oklahomans to enjoy hunting with their families and friends; and

WHEREAS, hunting provides Oklahomans with opportunities to connect with the land and wildlife and develop a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the link between professional science-based management actions that result in healthy habitats, abundant wildlife and an increased gratitude for the resources that the state's ecosystems can provide; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma's hunters generate nearly \$10 million in license revenue while sportsmen contribute an additional \$17 million in excise taxes through the Pittman-Robertson Act to help fund the conservation of Oklahoma's wildlife resources through the American

System of Conservation Funding while significantly contributing to Oklahoma's economy; and

WHEREAS, the challenges associated with the 2020 coronavirus pandemic shed new light on the importance of outdoor recreation opportunities like hunting for mental and physical health, self-reliance and the overall quality of life for all Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, anyone under the age of 30 who is interested in participating in Oklahoma's rich hunting heritage is required to either purchase an apprentice-designated hunting license or participate in and complete a hunter education curriculum that is recognized and approved by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Hunter Education curriculum recognized and approved by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation covers a variety of topics including firearms safety, wildlife conservation and management and hunter responsibilities that are designed to increase hunter safety and educate hunters on the conservation ethic that is central to the activity; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma statute already permits school districts throughout Oklahoma to incorporate hunter education into middle school or high school curriculum utilizing free educator training and resources made available by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages Oklahoma's public school districts to incorporate hunter education, with a dedicated section focused on firearm safety, into the middle school or high school curriculum.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages students who do not have access to hunter education in school, or any adult interested in obtaining a hunter education certification, to utilize the online hunter education program approved and administered by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Adopted by the Senate the 16th day of March, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 20th day of April, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20 _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____