



2015 SENATE BILL 301

October 9, 2015 - Introduced by Senators MOULTON and MARKLEIN, cosponsored by Representatives KLEEFISCH, ALLEN, CZAJA, EDMING, GANNON, HEATON, KNODL, KRUG, MURSAU, MURTHA, RIPP, THIESFELDT and TITTL. Referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry.

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 29.592 (3); and **to amend** 29.592 (1) (intro.) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** eliminating age requirements for participating in the hunting
3 mentorship program and hunting devices authorized to be used under the
4 hunting mentorship program.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires, with certain exceptions, that every person who obtains a hunting approval must have a certificate of accomplishment issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicating that he or she has successfully completed one of the applicable hunter education programs established by DNR. Current law also generally prohibits hunting and firearm possession by any person under the age of 12. For persons who are at least 12 years old, but under the age of 16, current law allows hunting and firearm possession but imposes certain restrictions that vary depending on the person's age.

The hunting mentorship program under current law establishes an exception to the general requirement that a person obtain a certificate of accomplishment in order to hunt. Under that program, a person who is at least ten years of age may hunt without obtaining a certificate of accomplishment and may possess or control a firearm while hunting if the person has a valid hunting approval and is hunting with a qualified mentor. The mentor must remain within arm's reach of the person for whom he or she is serving as a mentor, must hold a current valid hunting approval, must have obtained a certificate of accomplishment or be exempt from the requirement to obtain a certificate of accomplishment, and may take only one person

