

first been issued a certificate of competency in firearms and hunter safety.

(ii) On or after July 1, 1977[,] a person, regardless of age, may not procure a hunting license without producing a certificate of competency or a hunting license issued prior to July 1, 1977 or making out an affidavit that [he] THE PERSON had such a license.

(2) This section does not apply to nonresidents of Maryland who purchase a hunting license in [this] THE State to hunt wild waterfowl. However, this does apply to nonresidents of Maryland who purchase hunting licenses in [this] THE State to hunt other wildlife.

(b) (1) The Department shall prescribe a course of instruction in conservation, [competency] COMPETENCY, and safety in the handling of firearms.

(4) The Department may not issue a certificate of competency and safety to an individual under the age of 18 unless [he] THE INDIVIDUAL has completed satisfactorily the course of instruction, or produces a certificate of competency or a hunting license issued prior to July 1, 1978 or makes out an affidavit that [he] THE INDIVIDUAL had such a license.

(c) (1) The Department shall institute and coordinate a statewide course of instruction in conservation, [competency] COMPETENCY, and safety in the handling of firearms, and in so doing, [it] THE DEPARTMENT may cooperate with any political subdivision[,] or with any reputable organization having as [one] 1 of its objectives the promotion of competency and safety in the handling of firearms, such as the National Rifle Association and local rod and gun clubs.

(2) The Department may conduct the course in hunter safety and issue [such] THE certificates, using Department personnel or other persons at times and in areas where other competent agencies are unable or unwilling to meet the demand for instruction.

(3) Any similar certificate, or hunting license, issued outside the State by a governmental agency, shall be accepted as complying with the requirements of [subsection (1) above] PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, if the privileges are reciprocal for Maryland residents.

(d) The Department shall adopt [rules and] regulations to provide for the course of instruction and the issuance of the certificates consistent with the purpose of this section.

(e) (1) On or after July 1, 1977[,] any person who obtains a hunting license by presenting a fictitious certificate of competency or who attempts to obtain a certificate of competency or hunting license through fraud shall have his hunting privileges revoked by the Department for a period not to exceed [one] 1 year.

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(c) (1) The agent shall fill out every license and duplicate license in a legible and proper manner.