

CHAPTER 106

(House Bill 1323)

AN ACT concerning

**Competency in Firearms and Hunter Safety - Gratis Hunting License**

FOR the purpose of allowing the Department of Natural Resources or its agent to issue a 1-year gratis hunting license to a Maryland resident under the age of 16 years who has successfully completed a hunter safety course; providing for a certain effective date; and specifying the conditions for the issuance of this license.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section 10-301.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1994 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Natural Resources**

10-301.1.

(a) (1) (i) On or after July 1, 1977 a person under 18 years of age may not procure a hunting license or hunt in the State, unless the person has 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 the person had such a license.

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

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

(2) The Department shall designate those persons or agencies authorized to give the course of instruction, and this designation shall be valid until revoked by the Department. Those designated persons shall submit to the Department validated listings naming all persons who have successfully completed the course of instruction.

(3) The Department shall issue a certificate of competency and safety to each person who successfully completes the course of instruction, and the certificate shall be valid until revoked by the Department.