

Gun Owners' Action League

H.4139 – Training Mandates

Hunter Education

- A hunter education course is a valid substitute for a basic firearms safety course for a “long gun permit” (LGP) only.
- Hunter’s education will not be valid to receive a license to carry (LTC).

Exceptions to Training Requirements

- Anyone who lawfully possesses a Firearms Identification Card or a License to Carry firearms on or before August 1, 2024 shall be exempt from the new training requirements when applying for license renewal.
- Officers, agents, and employees of the Commonwealth or any other US state; Any member of the military or other service of any state of the US; law enforcement officers, agents or employees of any municipality of the Commonwealth are exempt from training requirements when applying for a LGP or LTC as long as they are authorized to carry or possess a firearm in the scope of their duties.

Instructors and Curriculum

- The Colonel of the State Police will be in charge of designing and certifying the curriculum for firearms training in the Commonwealth and will annually update and post a list of approved instructors for basic firearm safety training.
- Certification of instructors would last for 10 years, unless revoked at the discretion of the Colonel.
- Instructors would be those certified by a nationally recognized organization that “fosters safety in firearms”- or any other persons deemed suitable by the Colonel to train.
- The curriculum for approved firearms safety courses offered by trainers in the Commonwealth must provide (as quoted in the bill):
 - The safe use, handling and storage of firearms
 - Methods for securing and childproofing firearms
 - The applicable laws relating to the possession, transportation and storage of firearms
 - Knowledge of operation, potential dangers and basic competency in the ownership and use of firearms
 - Injury prevention and harm reduction education
 - Active shooter and emergency response training
 - Applicable laws relating to the use of force
 - De-escalation and disengagement tactics, and;
 - Live firearms training
- Initial certification for trainers will cost \$50 and renewal will cost \$10
- Along with the curriculum, the Colonel will also create a written examination and establish minimum requirements to pass the exam.

Issuance of Basic Firearms Safety Certificates

- Certified instructors can issue basic firearms safety certificates to anyone who completes the requirements of basic firearms safety training including:
 - Demonstrated competency of the use of firearms “through class participation”
 - Satisfactory completion of the written exam, and;
 - Live firearms training
- Instructors must forward copies of certificates to the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS).
- Upon receipt, DCJIS will forward a copy of the certificate to the applicant who completed the training.

Penalties for Falsification

- Anyone who falsifies a basic firearms safety certificate and knowingly submits it to the licensing authority for a permit shall be punished with a fine of not less than \$1,000 but not more than \$5,000 and/or be imprisoned for not more than 2 years.
- Any instructor who knowingly issues a basic firearms safety certificate to a person who has not completed the course shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$5,000 but not more than \$10,000 and/or be imprisoned for not more than 2 years.