

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1498

H. P. 1203

House of Representatives, March 25, 1975

Referred to Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connors of Franklin.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT to Require Mandatory Training for Certain Persons Hunting  
with Firearms.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

12 MRSA § 2401-A, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 52, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 2401-A. Hunter training

1. Certificate of competency required for certain minors. The commissioner is authorized to establish a program for training minors in the safe handling of firearms and for this purpose may cooperate with any public or private association or organization having as one of its objectives the promotion of safety in firearms handling. The commissioner shall prescribe the qualifications of instructors. The commissioner shall prescribe the type and course of instruction and the time and place of examinations for minors. He shall issue a certificate of competency to such minors as successfully complete the examination.

Each instructor authorized by the commissioner to conduct the program for training in safe handling of firearms by minors shall be covered by liability insurance protecting him from liability for damages during the time when instruction is being furnished. The cost of such insurance shall be borne by the State and shall be a charge against the funds credited to the department.

2. Mandatory training for certain adult hunters. On or after January 1, 1977, no adult firearm hunting license shall be issued to any person unless such person shall present to the license agent:

A. Proof that he or she has held an adult hunting license in this or any other state or province within the last 5 years; or

B. Proof that he or she has successfully completed a hunter education program in this State or in another state with an equivalent course.

The commissioner is authorized to establish a program for training in the safe handling of firearms and for this purpose may cooperate with any private or public association or organization having as one of its objectives the promotion of safety in firearms handling. The commissioner shall prescribe the qualifications of instructors. The commissioner shall prescribe the course of instruction and the time and place of examination. He shall issue a certificate of competency to such persons as successfully complete the examination.

Each instructor authorized by the commissioner to conduct the program of training shall be covered by liability insurance protecting him from liability for damages during the time when instruction is being furnished. The cost of such insurance shall be borne by the State and shall be charged against the funds credited to the department.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act requires mandatory training of certain persons hunting with firearms.