

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1084

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H.P. 679

House of Representatives, March 9, 2023

**An Act to Enhance Wildlife Conservation Efforts and Preserve  
Sporting Heritage by Making the Elements of a Hunter Safety  
Course a Part of Public School Curriculum**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARDELL of Monticello.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4710-C** is enacted to read:

3 **§4710-C. Instruction in firearm hunter safety**

4 **1. Firearm hunter safety.** The elements of a Maine firearm hunter safety course must  
5 be taught in all public and private schools and successful completion of the course is  
6 required for graduation from all secondary schools. The course, or its elements, must be  
7 taught no later than grade 9 and must address the following topics:

8 A. Survival and first aid practices;

9 B. Landowner relations;

10 C. Hunter ethics;

11 D. Maine hunting laws;

12 E. Hands-on practice of safe firearms handling;

13 F. Hands-on instruction of map and compass usage and outdoor survival; and

14 G. Wildlife conservation and biology.

15 **2. Successful completion; certificate.** A student who successfully completes a Maine  
16 firearm hunter safety course is entitled to a Maine hunter safety certificate provided by the  
17 Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and satisfies the requirement in Title 12,  
18 section 11105.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill adds a requirement that the elements of a Maine firearm hunter safety course  
21 must be taught no later than grade 9 in all public and private schools in Maine. Successful  
22 completion of the course will result in the issuance to the student of a Maine hunter safety  
23 certificate that satisfies the requirement to obtain an adult hunting license in Maine.