

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 5

By: Allen of the Senate

5 and

6 Wallace of the House

7
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Concurrent Resolution encouraging Oklahoma public
10 schools to incorporate the Oklahoma Department of
11 Wildlife Conservation-approved hunter education
12 course into their middle or high school curriculums;
13 and directing distribution.

14 WHEREAS, Oklahoma is blessed with abundant resources and
15 tremendous natural beauty. The state's wildlife resources have
16 provided a source of food for generations of Oklahomans, as well as
17 ample opportunity for Oklahomans to enjoy hunting with their
18 families and friends; and

19 WHEREAS, hunting provides Oklahomans with opportunities to
20 connect with the land and wildlife and develop a deeper
21 understanding of, and appreciation for, the link between
22 professional science-based management actions that result in healthy
23 habitats, abundant wildlife and an increased gratitude for the
24 resources that the state's ecosystems can provide; and

1 WHEREAS, Oklahoma's hunters generate nearly \$10 million in
2 license revenue while sportsmen contribute an additional \$17 million
3 in excise taxes through the Pittman-Robertson Act to help fund the
4 conservation of Oklahoma's wildlife resources through the American
5 System of Conservation Funding while significantly contributing to
6 Oklahoma's economy; and

7 WHEREAS, the challenges associated with the 2020 coronavirus
8 pandemic shed new light on the importance of outdoor recreation
9 opportunities like hunting for mental and physical health, self-
10 reliance and the overall quality of life for all Oklahomans; and

11 WHEREAS, anyone under the age of 30 who is interested in
12 participating in Oklahoma's rich hunting heritage is required to
13 either purchase an apprentice-designated hunting license or
14 participate in and complete a hunter education curriculum that is
15 recognized and approved by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife
16 Conservation; and

17 WHEREAS, the Hunter Education curriculum recognized and approved
18 by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation covers a variety
19 of topics including firearms safety, wildlife conservation and
20 management and hunter responsibilities that are designed to increase
21 hunter safety and educate hunters on the conservation ethic that is
22 central to the activity; and

23 WHEREAS, Oklahoma statute already permits school districts
24 throughout Oklahoma to incorporate hunter education into middle

1 school or high school curriculum utilizing free educator training
2 and resources made available by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife
3 Conservation.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
5 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
6 CONCURRING THEREIN:

7 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages Oklahoma's public
8 school districts to incorporate hunter education, with a dedicated
9 section focused on firearm safety, into the middle school or high
10 school curriculum.

11 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages students who do not
12 have access to hunter education in school, or any adult interested
13 in obtaining a hunter education certification, to utilize the online
14 hunter education program approved and administered by the Oklahoma
15 Department of Wildlife Conservation.

16 THAT a copy of this resolution is to be sent to the Oklahoma
17 Department of Wildlife Conservation.

18
19 58-1-1822 KA 2/11/2021 4:01:03 PM

20
21
22
23
24