

HOUSE BILL 854

M2

5lr2350
CF SB 128

By: **Delegate Hornberger**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hunter Safety Education – Issuance of Identification Number**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to issue a permanent
4 identification number in a certain manner to each person who successfully completes
5 a course of instruction in conservation and in competency and safety in the handling
6 of firearms; and generally relating to hunter safety education.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Natural Resources
9 Section 10–301.1(a) and (d)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Natural Resources
14 Section 10–301.1(b)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Natural Resources**

20 10–301.1.

21 (a) (1) (i) On or after July 1, 1977, a person under 18 years of age may not
22 procure a hunting license or hunt in the State, unless the person has first been issued a
23 certificate of competency in firearms and hunter safety.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(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 before July 1, 1977, or making out an affidavit that the person hunted before July 1, 1977.

(2) (i) This section does not apply to nonresidents of Maryland who purchase a nonresident 3-day hunting license in the State to hunt wild waterfowl.

(ii) This section applies to nonresidents of Maryland who purchase hunting licenses in the State to hunt wildlife other than wild waterfowl.

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

(2) (i) 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.

(ii) Those designated persons shall submit to the Department validated listings naming all persons who have successfully completed the course of instruction.

(3) (I) The Department shall issue [a certificate of competency and safety] to each person who successfully completes the course of instruction[, and the certificate]:

1. A CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY AND SAFETY; AND

2. A PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.

(II) A CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY AND SAFETY ISSUED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH shall be valid until revoked by the Department.

(III) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRINT THE PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ASSIGNED TO A PERSON UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH ON:

1. THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY AND SAFETY ISSUED TO THE PERSON; OR

2. A SEPARATE FORM PROVIDED WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY AND SAFETY.

(4) The Department may not issue a certificate of competency and safety to an individual under the age of 18 unless the individual has completed satisfactorily the

1 course of instruction, or produces a certificate of competency or a hunting license issued
2 prior to July 1, 1978, or makes out an affidavit that the individual had such a license.

3 (d) The Department shall adopt regulations to provide for the course of
4 instruction and the issuance of the certificates consistent with the purpose of this section.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2025.