

Senate Bill 332

By: Senators Harper of the 7th, Heath of the 31st, Brass of the 28th, Ginn of the 47th, Burke of the 11th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to hunting, trapping, or fishing, so as to provide for a hunter mentor program within  
3 the Department of Natural Resources; to provide for definitions; to provide for program  
4 criteria and terms and conditions; to provide for a special hunting passport for program  
5 participants; to provide for findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
6 and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 hunting, trapping, or fishing, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "27-2-4.5.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Hunter mentee' means any individual to whom the department has never issued a  
14 hunting license under this chapter.

15 (2) 'Hunter mentor' means any individual who is 18 years of age or older and who has  
16 a current license issued pursuant to this chapter.

17 (3) 'Hunting passport' means a reduced cost license issued by the department which  
18 licenses or permits noncommercial hunting and fishing privileges across all categories  
19 of hunting.

20 (b) The General Assembly finds that a hunter mentor program can spark interest in hunting  
21 as a lifelong activity; provide safe, memorable, and positive introductions for first-time  
22 hunting experiences; and promote safe and ethical hunting practices.

23 (c) The department shall establish and maintain a hunter mentor program that enables  
24 experienced hunters to mentor new hunters in safe, ethical, and responsible hunting  
25 practices. In furtherance of such hunter mentor program, the department:

- 26 (1) Shall establish a mentor education course that provides instruction to hunter mentors,  
27 the completion of which shall be required before he or she may mentor a hunter mentee  
28 under the program;
- 29 (2) Shall work with partners to develop incentives for hunter mentors and may include  
30 reduced license fees for a hunter mentor participating in the program;
- 31 (3) Shall issue hunter mentees participating in the program a hunting passport which  
32 shall expire one year after issuance; and
- 33 (4) Shall prepare necessary applications and impose any further criteria and terms and  
34 conditions not inconsistent with this Code section for implementation of the program."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.