

House Bill 451 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Cannon of the 172nd, Rhodes of the 124th, Erwin of the 32nd, Dubnik of the 29th, and Corbett of the 174th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act,"
3 so as to provide that local boards of education shall be authorized to provide instruction in
4 hunting safety in grades six through 12; to provide for the adoption of content standards by
5 the State Board of Education; to provide that local boards of education may establish a
6 curriculum in hunting safety; to provide for instructor requirements; to provide legislative
7 findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 The General Assembly finds that hunter education courses provide young and beginning
11 hunters with the information that they need to understand the purposes of hunting, general
12 hunting practices, the conservation ethic shared by sportsmen and women, an appreciation
13 for the wildlife of this state, and much more. Providing a hunting safety course in the public
14 schools of this state is a great way to train and recruit the next generation of sportsmen and
15 women, teach youth about the benefits of hunting and fishing, and build support for
16 sportsmen and women led wildlife conservation.

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17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Part 14 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
19 relating to other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended
20 by revising Code Section 20-2-308, which is reserved, as follows:

21 "20-2-308.

22 (a) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each local board of education shall be
23 authorized to provide instruction in hunting safety in grades six through 12, which
24 instruction may be incorporated into an existing course of study.

25 (b) No later than April 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall adopt content standards
26 for such instruction in hunting safety.

27 (c) Each local board of education shall be authorized to establish a curriculum for
28 instruction in hunting safety, which curriculum shall be based on the hunter education
29 courses offered by the Department of Natural Resources.

30 (d) Instruction in hunting safety offered pursuant to this Code section shall be taught by
31 an individual who is certified as a hunter education instructor by the Department of Natural
32 Resources. Reserved."

33 **SECTION 3.**

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