

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2460 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY KULIK, GOUGHNOUR, IRVIN, GILLEN, KEPHART, NEILSON, STEELE, PASHINSKI AND MEHAFFIE, APRIL 24, 2026

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 6, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto deemed a reference to "area career and
6 technical school," in terms and courses of study, providing
7 for hunting and trapping education; and imposing duties on
8 the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Game
9 Commission.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
13 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
14 section to read:

15 Section 1529. Hunting and Trapping Education.--(a) No later
16 than July 1, 2027, the commission, in consultation with the
17 department, shall develop and make available to each school
18 entity a model program of age-appropriate hunting and trapping
19 education, including firearm safety instruction, for students in
20 grades six through twelve.

21 (b) The firearm safety instruction under the model program

1 must:

2 (1) Comply with the firearm safety training requirements of
3 the commission's basic hunter-trapper education course.

4 (2) Be taught by an individual who is a commission-certified
5 hunter education instructor.

6 (3) Include the following topics:

7 (i) Proper usage and handling of firearms.

8 (ii) Safe cleaning and maintenance of firearms.

9 (iii) Different types of firearms.

10 (iv) Safe hunting practices and techniques.

11 (v) History of wildlife conservation and hunting.

12 (c) Firearms or ammunition may not be brought into a school
13 building as part of the firearm safety instruction under the
14 model program.

15 (d) A school entity may provide the firearm safety
16 instruction under the model program as:

17 (1) an optional extracurricular class for students in grades
18 six through twelve in the school entity; or

19 (2) part of an existing course for the purpose of teaching
20 self-expression and enjoyment of recreational activity.

21 (e) Upon request by a parent or legal guardian of a student,
22 the student shall be excused, without penalty or loss of
23 academic credit, from attending the firearm safety instruction
24 under the model program.

25 (f) A student who completes the firearm safety instruction
26 under the model program is deemed to have completed the
27 commission's basic hunter-trapper education course that is
28 required to obtain a hunting license under State law.

29 (g) The commission, in consultation with the department,
30 shall prescribe procedures necessary to implement and administer

1 the model program.

2 (h) Any training hours offered by the commission for school
3 entities that result in a school staff member becoming a
4 certified hunter education instructor or for the purposes of
5 administering any other program offered by the commission shall
6 count towards continuing professional education under sections
7 1205.1, 1205.2 and 1205.3.

8 (i) Any costs incurred by a school entity as a result of
9 this section ~~shall~~ MAY be reimbursed by the commission. <--

10 (j) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
11 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
12 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Game Commission.

14 "Department." The Department of Education of the
15 Commonwealth.

16 "Firearm." As defined in 34 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to
17 definitions).

18 "Hunting." As defined in 34 Pa.C.S. § 102.

19 "Model program." The model program developed under
20 subsection (a).

21 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
22 charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school,
23 intermediate unit, area career and technical school or parochial
24 school.

25 "Trapping." As defined in 34 Pa.C.S. § 102.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.