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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to hunter safety; amending s. 372.5717,
 F.S.; authorizing the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
 Commission to defer the hunter safety course requirement
 for a specified time period and issue a restricted hunting
 license; limiting the number of deferrals an individual is
 allowed; permitting hunting with a restricted license
 under certain circumstances; deleting the mandatory
 minimum number of instructional hours for the required
 hunter safety course; providing exemptions for the display
 of hunter safety certification; providing an effective
 date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (2), (3), and (6) of section
 372.5717, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

372.5717 Hunter safety course; requirements; penalty.--

(2)(a) A person born on or after June 1, 1975, may not be
 issued a license to take wild animal life with the use of a
 firearm, gun, bow, or crossbow in this state without having
 first successfully completed a hunter safety course as provided
 in this section, and without having in his or her personal
 possession a hunter safety certification card, as provided in
 this section.

(b) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may
 defer the hunter safety course requirement for 1 year and issue
 a restricted hunting license. Individuals may receive only one

29 deferment. Individuals issued a restricted hunting license shall
 30 only be permitted to take wild animal life with the use of a
 31 firearm, gun, bow, or crossbow under the direct supervision and
 32 in the physical presence of an adult who has successfully
 33 completed or is exempt from completing the required hunter
 34 safety course as provided in this section.

35 (3) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
 36 institute and coordinate a statewide hunter safety course which
 37 must be offered in every county and consist of not ~~less than 12~~
 38 ~~hours nor~~ more than 16 hours of instruction including, but not
 39 limited to, instruction in the competent and safe handling of
 40 firearms, conservation, and hunting ethics.

41 (6) All persons subject to the requirements of subsection
 42 (2) must have in their personal possession, ~~proof of compliance~~
 43 ~~with this section,~~ while taking or attempting to take wildlife
 44 with the use of a firearm, gun, bow, or crossbow and must
 45 display a valid hunter safety certification card, unless the
 46 hunter safety course requirement is deferred pursuant to this
 47 section, to county tax collectors or their subagents in order to
 48 purchase a Florida hunting license. After the issuance of a
 49 license, the license itself shall serve as proof of compliance
 50 with this section. A holder of a lifetime license whose license
 51 does not indicate on the face of the license that a hunter
 52 safety course has been completed must have in his or her
 53 personal possession a hunter safety certification card, as
 54 provided by this section, while attempting to take wild animal
 55 life with the use of a firearm, gun, bow, or crossbow.

56 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.