

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 2460 Session of  
2026INTRODUCED BY KULIK, GOUGHNOUR, IRVIN, GILLEN, KEPHART, NEILSON,  
STEELE, PASHINSKI AND MEHAFFIE, APRIL 24, 2026AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 29, 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)~~ (E) A student who completes the firearm safety <--  
26 instruction under the model program is deemed to have completed  
27 the commission's basic hunter-trapper education course that is  
28 required to obtain a hunting license under State law.

29 ~~(g) (F) 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) (G) Any costs incurred by a school entity as a result of~~ <--  
9 ~~this section may be reimbursed by the commission.~~

10 ~~(j) (H) 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.