

**2017 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SB 2226**

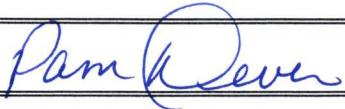
# 2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2226  
2/2/2017  
Job #27789

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution: Relating to hunter education requirements for veterans; and amend sections relating to hunter education requirements for veterans.**

**Minutes:**

[Attach#1=Greg Link, Attach#2=Michael McEnroe]

All committee members present.

**Chairwoman Unruh:** Let's open the hearing for SB 2226.

**Sen Klein:** Dist. 14.: This bill comes about by a constituent from Dawson, ND. She had two sons that served in Iraq and Afghanistan. They had not done hunter safety and now, after all that military training, have to take hunter safety. She suggested they should not need any. I still feel you need to know the basic rules of game hunting. I know they can do some on line training, but we still have to have some training. I know that shooting an M-16 is not the same as shooting an over and under. Rep Nelson was going to introduce this bill, but forgot. So here we are. They did not want to spend time with the 12 year olds. (03.01)

**Chairwoman Unruh:** Do you know how other states approach this?

**Sen Klein:** I have that info somewhere. I had L.C. look at MN and SD. They all provide a different license for veterans. They all require some sort of on line or training. I forwarded this information to the mom.

**Vice Chair Kreun:** (4.21) Does the mom object to her sons taking the written test on location?

**Senate Klein:** Her objection is totally because my sons serviced this county and deserve the opportunity to hunt without hunter's safety class. This bill is a happy medium, maybe.

**Sen. Oban:** Do law enforcement have to do hunter's safety class?

**Sen Klein:** Yes, I believe they do.

**Sen. Oban:** Did you talk to the sons? Mothers may be a bit protective of their boys or girls.

**Sen Klein:** No, I did not.

**Chairwoman Unruh:** Any more testimony in support? Any against the bill?

**Greg Link,** Game and Fish Dept, Conservation and Communications Division Chief: (2.28)  
We are in opposition to SB 2226. (see Attach#1) Please NO NOT PASS.

**Sen. Armstrong:** (11.11) After you take the on line course, where do you take the in person test?

**Greg:** Depends where the instructor lives. They are spread out throughout the state.

**Sen. Armstrong:** Do you know how long it takes to schedule that?

**Greg:** Most instructors make themselves available, especially in those kind of situations.  
Maybe an hour or so to run through the test to make sure the student knows the material.

**Chairwoman Unruh:** Further testimony in opposition to SB 2226?

**Michael McEnroe,** ND Wildlife Federation: (see Attach#2) I have been a hunter's safety instructor for 28 years. I was part of the team that developed ND Game and Fish Dept. on line hunter ed program. We oppose SB 2226 because we think it already exists. Please NO NOT PASS.

**Chairwoman Unruh:** Any more opposed? Any agency testimony? We close this hearing.  
(14.10)

# 2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2226  
2/2/2017  
Job # 27783

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:** Relating to hunter education requirements for veterans; and amend sections relating to hunter education requirements for veterans.

**Minutes:**

**Chairwoman Unruh:** What are the committee wishes on SB 2226?

**Sen. Cook:** I move a DO NOT PASS

**Sen. Roers:** I second the motion.

**Chairwoman Unruh:** Any discussion? I think we already have this subject covered, myself.

Call the roll:      YES    7      NO    0      -0- Absent

The **DO NOT PASS**, passed.    **Sen. Roers** will carry the bill.

Date: 2-2-2011 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2226**

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description:

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Refer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions:  Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Cook Seconded By Sen. Roers

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent - Ø -

Floor Assignment Sen. Roers

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2226: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Unruh, Chairman)**  
recommends DO NOT PASS (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
SB 2226 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2017 TESTIMONY**

**SB 2226**



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Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Testimony on SB 2226

North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
Greg Link, Conservation and Communications Division Chief  
February 2, 2017

Madam Chair Unruh and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee, I'm testifying today on behalf of the Game and Fish Department in opposition of SB 2226,

To fulfill its statutory mandate initiated in 1972, the Game and Fish Department annually administers both a traditional 14-hour classroom-instructed Hunter Education course to approximately 6,000 students, 11-years of age and older, and a 14-hour online-assisted course to nearly 500 students, 16-years of age and older. These courses address not only firearms safety and handling, but also hunter ethics, wildlife and habitat conservation, landowner relations, proper preparation for the hunt, wildlife identification, and outdoor survival. To ensure the thorough understanding of these essential fundamentals has been achieved, a final exam must be passed to gain certification for both the classroom course and the online course.

The online course, currently provided by the Game and Fish Department, was created as an accelerated alternative for the older-than-average student with a more developed level of comprehension. It is not unreasonable to believe an adult with advanced firearms knowledge and training, such as a military veteran, could work through our existing online course in four hours or less. The only difference between the certification outlined in this bill and that currently provided by the Department's online course, is the follow-up face-to-face exam. The exam is the essential component to ensure the desired level of understanding and proficiency is achieved to fulfill the ultimate goal of the program which is not solely limited to firearms knowledge and safety but also includes a thorough awareness of the role, responsibility, and behavior of an ethical hunter. The exam, which is administered by a certified instructor, also provides verification that the individual obtaining the Hunter Education certification is truly the same person who took the online course.

If this bill became law, it would require the Department to develop an entirely separate course and curriculum to condense its contents into four hours, specifically for military veterans. We believe this would not be a cost-effective effort for the few military veterans who are interested but have not yet become Hunter Education certified.

Madam Chair and Committee Members, the Department respectfully requests a DO NOT PASS on SB 2226.

original

# North Dakota Wildlife Federation

Ensuring abundant wildlife, wildlife habitat, and access to wildlife recreational opportunities



**TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL McENROE  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
SENATE BILL 2226  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

Chairman Unruh and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am Mike McEnroe and I am representing the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. The Federation has 1,400 members in eighteen affiliated clubs and organizations across the State.

In addition to being the Past President of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation and the President for the past five years, I have been a North Dakota Game and Fish Department volunteer Hunter Education instructor for the past 28 years. I was part of the team that developed the current online Hunter Education course. The Wildlife Federation is opposed to SB 2226 because in large part it already exists.

SB 2226 provides that an honorably discharged veteran may obtain a certificate of completion for a hunter education course by completing four hours of online instruction on hunter safety as approved by the director. The current online Hunter Education course involves one hour of introductory material, taking the online course over a two-week period, and returning to take an in person written and practical test.



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DPL  
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The online ND Hunter Education course and certificate meets the Hunter Education requirements of all forty-nine other states and is recognized by all those states. I see little need or efficacy in developing a separate online course for veterans when an online course already exists.

I respect the sacrifice our veterans have made in service to our country, but the provisions of SB 2226 are already met in the current Hunter Education program. I respectfully request a Do Not Pass vote on SB 2226.

I would stand for any questions the Committee may have.