

AN ACT

ENTITLED, An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the minimum hunting age.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. That § 41-6-81 be amended to read:

41-6-81. Notwithstanding any provisions of Title 41 to the contrary, a resident of this state who is less than sixteen years of age is not required to possess a hunting license in order to hunt if accompanied by a hunting mentor. A hunting mentor is the child's parent or guardian or any other competent adult who has the written consent of the child's parent or guardian. The hunting mentor shall be a resident of this state, shall be unarmed except as provided in this section, shall have successfully completed a hunter safety or hunter education course that meets the requirements of chapter 41-7, and shall possess a valid hunting license for the game being hunted. A child who hunts pursuant to this section shall be under the immediate physical control, direct supervision, and responsibility of a hunting mentor at the time the child discharges a firearm or operates a bow and arrow in the act of hunting. A hunting mentor may accompany no more than one mentored child at any one time. No hunting party that includes a mentored child may include more than six persons, regardless of whether or not members of the hunting party are hunting or possess or operate firearms. A child who hunts pursuant to this section is subject to all requirements, restrictions, and penalties specified in this title and in the rules promulgated pursuant to this title with respect to the species being hunted, except that the combined number of animals taken or possessed by the child and the hunting mentor may not exceed the number of animals authorized under licenses held by the hunting mentor. A mentored child may not take big game under the provisions of this section except antlerless deer, turkey, and doe-fawn antelope. No big game may be taken by a mentored child unless the child's parent or legal guardian has been issued a license that designates the child as a mentored child who is authorized to exercise the privileges granted by the license. The license is valid only for

the mentored child and is not transferable to another person. Application for or issuance of such licenses does not affect the eligibility of the parent or legal guardian for any other big game license. The requirement in this section that the hunting mentor be unarmed does not prohibit the hunting mentor from possessing a permitted concealed pistol or other legally possessed handgun.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 to establish criteria and conditions governing the hunter mentoring program established in this section.

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I certify that the attached Act
originated in the
SENATE as Bill No. 137

Secretary of the Senate
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President of the Senate

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Attest:

Chief Clerk

Senate Bill No. 137
File No. _____
Chapter No. _____

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Received at this Executive Office
this ____ day of _____,
20__ at _____ M.

By _____
for the Governor
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The attached Act is hereby
approved this _____ day of
_____, A.D., 20__

Governor

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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
ss.
Office of the Secretary of State

Filed _____, 20__
at _____ o'clock __ M.

Secretary of State

By _____
Asst. Secretary of State