

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution

H.R. 22

House resolution encouraging schools in Vermont to offer the Eddie Eagle GunSafe program and the Department of Fish and Wildlife's hunter education courses

Offered by: Representatives Higley of Lowell and Buckholz of Hartford

Whereas, according to a 2016 joint Harvard University and Northeastern University study, there were an estimated 265 million privately owned firearms in the United States, and

Whereas, from a different perspective, according to the online statistical compilation Statista, approximately 42 percent of U.S. households have at least one firearm in their possession, and

Whereas, these statistics support the importance of youngsters receiving basic gun safety education at an early age, especially in Vermont with its long tradition of being a hunting culture and having a respect for the appropriate use of firearms, and

Whereas, the National Rifle Association's (NRA) Eddie Eagle GunSafe program is an educational program intended for children in prekindergarten through grade 4, and the NRA offers grant funding to schools, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, day care centers, and libraries interested in bringing the Eddie Eagle program to their facilities, and

Whereas, the program's primary teaching tool is a recently updated animated video, and it also features parent and teacher curriculum guides and a website designed for young students, and

Whereas, although Eddie Eagle is an NRA production, it conveys no value judgment about firearms and is only intended to teach children what to do if they ever come across a gun, and

Whereas, since its initial release in 1988, an estimated 28 million children in all 50 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico have participated in the program, and

Whereas, for students who are interested in learning about hunting and participating in this Vermont tradition, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has a menu of hunter education courses that is available for presentation in schools, either during or after the school day, and is offered at no cost to either the school or the individual student, and

Whereas, during fiscal year 2017, over 400 volunteer instructors have offered the Department's hunter education courses at a number of schools, and

Whereas, these courses are of practical and educational value for the participating students, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body encourages schools in Vermont to offer the Eddie Eagle GunSafe program and the Department of Fish and Wildlife's hunter education courses, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Education, the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association, and the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife.