WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1984

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ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 1025

(By Mr. Del. Steptoe & Del. J. Martin)

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Passed February 8, 1984

In Effect Ninety Days From Passage
ENROLLED

H. B. 1025

(By Delegate Steptoe and Delegate J. Martin)

[Passed February 8, 1984; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section forty-b, article two, chapter twenty of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to permitting persons holding a Class A-1 small arms hunting license to use a pistol or revolver with a barrel length of four inches or more; requiring the promulgation of certain regulations with respect thereto; and the disposition of fees collected in connection to such licensure.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section forty-b, article two, chapter twenty of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-40b. Class A-1 small arms hunting license.

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of section two, article seven, chapter sixty-one of this code, a Class A-1 license shall be a small arms hunting license. If a person is otherwise qualified, a Class A-1 license may be issued by the department, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director, which regulations shall include provision for the establishment of a voluntary program available to citizens of the state pertaining to safety and proficiency in the use of a revolver or pistol, to a person twenty-one years of age or older who holds a valid Class A or Class AB license, or to a
person who is a resident and sixty-five years of age or older, but a Class A-1 license shall never be issued to a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor in any way associated with the use of firearms or dangerous weapons or who has been convicted of any felony nor shall the clerk of the county commission issue A-1 licenses as provided in section thirty-two, article two of this chapter.

A Class A-1 license shall entitle the licensee to hunt, as otherwise permitted by the provisions of this chapter, but only during small game and big game seasons as established annually by the director, with either a revolver or pistol which has a barrel at least four inches in length. A Class A-1 license shall entitle the licensee to carry or have in his possession one, and only one, revolver or pistol when going to and from his home or residence and a place of hunting and while hunting in the place: Provided, That such Class A-1 license shall not be valid unless the licensee have in his possession a valid Class A or Class AB license or be a resident and sixty-five years of age or older: Provided, however, That at all times, when not actually hunting, the revolver or pistol shall be unloaded.

While hunting, the licensee shall carry the revolver or pistol outside of his person in an unconcealed and easily visible place. At all other times the revolver or pistol shall be cased or dismantled in a way to cause it not to operate. When being transported in a vehicle it shall be kept in a locked compartment of the vehicle which shall not be accessible from the inside of such vehicle.

The fee shall be five dollars for a Class A-1 license. All such fees collected shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the law-enforcement division of the department of natural resources. Such fees shall be paid out of the state treasury on order of the director and used solely for law-enforcement purposes.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

James L. Davis  
Chairman Senate Committee

Arnold Grace  
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

J. C. Nike  
Clerk of the Senate

Donald L. Kopp  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Warren D. Market  
President of the Senate

W. H. Lee, Jr.  
Speaker House of Delegates

The within ________ approved this the ________ day of ________, 1984.

John D. Chapman  
Governor