15A NCAC 10K .0101 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

**15A NCAC 10K .0101  COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

(a) The Commission shall provide a hunter education. Individuals who wish to procure a hunting license, as required by G.S. 113-270.1B, shall attend a Commission-approved basic hunter education course and obtain a certificate of competency.

(b) Commission-approved basic hunter education courses include either an instructor-led course with a minimum of six hours of instruction or a Commission-approved self-paced, independent study course that instructs on at least the topics identified in Paragraph (b) of this Rule. G.S. 113-270.1A(b). Information on instructor-led Commission-approved courses and registration for the self-paced study option can be found at ncwildlife.org, is at http://www.ncwildlife.org/Hunting/BeforetheHunt/HunterEducationCourses.aspx. Both the instructor-led and self-paced study option courses shall meet the standards adopted by the International Hunter Education Association, including all subsequent amendments, found at http://ihea-usa.org/hunting-and-shooting/hunter-education/ihea-standards.

(b) Of the instruction required by Paragraph (a) of this Rule, 60 percent of the time shall be devoted to instruction related to the safe handling of firearms. The remaining course time shall include instruction on hunter responsibility (ethics), wildlife conservation, and wildlife management; and may include wildlife identification, game care, specialty hunting, survival and first aid, water safety, and special concerns (alcohol and drugs, turkey hunting, trapping, all terrain vehicles, and hunting dogs).

(c) The hunter education course shall be administered by an instructor certified by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(d)(c) The following requirements must be satisfied by the course participant in order to successfully complete a basic hunter education course and be entitled to the issuance of a Certificate of Competency:

1. complete all of the six hours of instruction in the instructor-led course or all the material contained in the independent study course; and
2. score a minimum of 70 percent on the final examination; and
3. review safe firearm handling skills, except current and former military personnel, current and former law enforcement officers, and National Rifle Association certified firearms instructors are exempt from this requirement. Exempt individuals must show current documentation of their exempt status.

**History Note:** Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1A;

Eff. October 1, 1991;

Amended Eff. June 1, 2014, April 1, 2003; April 1, 1996.