

I understand that your committee is considering changing the law to allow a short, on-line course to take the place of classroom-based safe boating and firearms courses. This is a really awful idea. This is an unsafe proposal which puts people at risk.

Please do not allow this change in law to go into effect:

- this rule change has not been well publicized, which has not permitted adequate public comment;

- on line training is good for some things, but it is not good for "drivers ed" and, similarly, it is not good for "boaters ed" or "firearms ed";

- in classroom-based courses:

 - students learn about boating from experienced boaters and about firearms from experienced gun enthusiasts who are present to allow students to ask questions of instructors who are experienced in the field. A student cannot ask a question of a computer;

 - a computer cannot show you how to dock a boat or tell you what mistakes it made while it was learning. A computer cannot properly teach weapons training and safety for hunters, especially for teens and children.

 - students learn from other students - that opportunity to learn does not exist when a student is taking the course on his or her laptop; and

 - we know that the person taking the test is the person who took the course. Not so in online training and certification - the opportunity for fraud is greatly increased.

I **STRONGLY** oppose changing the regulations/laws regarding Boating Safety and Hunter Safety training at this time. Please, for the sake of the safety of everyone, do not pass this ill-considered change in law.

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