

Comes, Rachel

From: info@gfp.sd.us
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2018 4:17 PM
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Cc: Comes, Rachel
Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Commission

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID: 43
Petitioner Name: Janet Loux
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Rule Identification: Youth Deer Season

Describe Change: I propose a new type of deer license with the following ideas: 1. It be offered as a "First time hunter tag" 2. State-wide antler-less only (white tail only?) 3. Cost will be the same as a Youth Anterless tag 4. Only those who have completed hunter safety in that same year are eligible 5. Only those who have completed hunter safety in South Dakota are eligible 6. Resident-only tag 7. They must be with another person, similar to the Youth Deer Tag requirements 8. Offered ONLY to those who do not qualify for youth or mentor tags because of age 9. The same rules apply to "new hunters" that apply to youth regarding eligibility for other deer tags Scenario: If someone over 18 by June 30th, takes Hunter Safety in South Dakota in 2016 but applies for this tag in the fall of 2017, they would be ineligible for this particular tag. But if they take Hunter Safety in 2018 and apply for it in the fall of 2018, they are eligible. If someone who is 16 takes Hunter Safety in 2017 and applied for this tag when they are too old for a youth tag, they are ineligible.

Reason for Change: The State of SD is missing out on a group of people who could be potential hunters. We already have mentor tags, available to those young hunters who are between the ages of 10 and 15. We already have youth tags, available to those young hunters who are between the ages of 12 and 18 who have completed HuntSafe and to those young hunters between the ages of 16 and 18 who have not. Those are great licenses and we have utilized them in our household for all our boys. Once HuntSafe courses are complete, young hunters have time to immediately apply for and receive a youth tag, as they are unlimited. As I was sitting in my tree stand this fall, a thought occurred to me. One new deer hunting group is left out, at least here in the Black Hills: the new hunter who is over the age of 18. Some HuntSafe courses are held in the fall. Becoming an Outdoor Woman courses are in the fall. Both take place after the drawing deadline. Sure, there is the possibility of leftover tags, but not even those are easy to get, nor guaranteed. Newly certified hunters who are eager to hunt deer but are not eligible for a youth tag are forced to wait until the next year, where they must enter the lottery system and hope for the best. They can obviously apply for an anterless tag in the following year. But I simply think we should not let age be a factor in letting newly-certified hunters feed their newfound passion. The women who receive their HuntSafe at BOW weekend are mostly out of luck for deer hunting until the next year. Our son's 23-year-old girlfriend completed hunter safety this fall but was unable to hunt big game in the Hills at all this fall, as there is no Black Hills fall turkey season (thank you for holding off on turkey tags in the Hills for a few years – they are coming back again!) and it is too late to compete for a deer tag. Kids take HuntSafe all the time, mostly because an adult has urged them. For an

adult taking HuntSafe, it is different. It is like learning to play the piano at 50 or deciding to try to get on a skateboard for the first time at 25 with "young'uns" around. I was lucky to have been a first-time hunter when I did HuntSafe, as tags could be bought at Walmart. But it is different now. Once an adult takes the step to becoming HuntSafe certified, I think it is up to us seasoned hunters to help feed the older, new hunters and their passions. Thank you for taking the time to read this. It is something I very much believe in.