1 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION 2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA 3 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021) ENGROSSED SENATE 4 CONCURRENT 5 RESOLUTION NO. 5 By: Allen, Dossett (J.J.), Jett, Bullard and Bergstrom 6 of the Senate 7 and Wallace, Frix and Luttrell 8 of the House 9 10 11 A Concurrent Resolution encouraging Oklahoma public schools to incorporate the Oklahoma Department of 12 Wildlife Conservation-approved hunter education course into their middle or high school curriculums; and directing distribution. 13 14 15 WHEREAS, Oklahoma is blessed with abundant resources and 16 tremendous natural beauty. The state's wildlife resources have 17 provided a source of food for generations of Oklahomans, as well as 18 ample opportunity for Oklahomans to enjoy hunting with their 19 families and friends; and 20 WHEREAS, hunting provides Oklahomans with opportunities to 21 connect with the land and wildlife and develop a deeper 22 understanding of, and appreciation for, the link between 23 professional science-based management actions that result in healthy 24

habitats, abundant wildlife and an increased gratitude for the resources that the state's ecosystems can provide; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma's hunters generate nearly \$10 million in license revenue while sportsmen contribute an additional \$17 million in excise taxes through the Pittman-Robertson Act to help fund the conservation of Oklahoma's wildlife resources through the American System of Conservation Funding while significantly contributing to Oklahoma's economy; and

WHEREAS, the challenges associated with the 2020 coronavirus pandemic shed new light on the importance of outdoor recreation opportunities like hunting for mental and physical health, self-reliance and the overall quality of life for all Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, anyone under the age of 30 who is interested in participating in Oklahoma's rich hunting heritage is required to either purchase an apprentice-designated hunting license or participate in and complete a hunter education curriculum that is recognized and approved by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Hunter Education curriculum recognized and approved by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation covers a variety of topics including firearms safety, wildlife conservation and management and hunter responsibilities that are designed to increase hunter safety and educate hunters on the conservation ethic that is central to the activity; and

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WHEREAS, Oklahoma statute already permits school districts throughout Oklahoma to incorporate hunter education into middle school or high school curriculum utilizing free educator training and resources made available by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages Oklahoma's public school districts to incorporate hunter education, with a dedicated section focused on firearm safety, into the middle school or high school curriculum.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages students who do not have access to hunter education in school, or any adult interested in obtaining a hunter education certification, to utilize the online hunter education program approved and administered by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

DIRECT TO CALENDAR.