

## HCS HB 1326 -- TAX DEDUCTION FOR FIREARM TRAINING

SPONSOR: Roberts

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 7 to 0.

Beginning January 1, 2019, this bill authorizes an individual income tax deduction of up to \$150 per taxpayer for the cost of up to eight hours of firearm education and training courses or firearm safety courses that teach proper and safe firearm handling.

The provisions of this bill will expire on December 31 six years after the effective date.

This bill is similar to HB 853 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the goal of this bill is to incentivize gun owners to get firearms training. SB 656 from 2016 changed the law so that individuals can carry concealed firearms without obtaining a concealed carry permit, thereby avoiding any firearms training requirements. Supporters believe there is a real benefit to obtaining such training which would impact more than just the individual carrying the gun.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Roberts and Tony Shepherd.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that should not be rewarding gun owners for being responsible. Training should be required before anyone can carry a concealed weapon.

Testifying against the bill was Damien Johnson.