

LOCAL LAW PERMANENT 6 OF 2023

Local Law Intro. No. 3 of 2023

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2021 AUTHORIZING 12 AND 13 YEAR OLD LICENSED HUNTERS TO HUNT DEER WITH A FIREARM OR CROSSBOW DURING HUNTING SEASON WITH THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED ADULT

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Broome as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent:

The intent of this Local Law is to authorize Broome County to permit 12 and 13 year old individuals to participate in the new and safe hunting opportunities in accordance with Environment Conservation Law § 11-0935. [The enacted 2021-2022 New York State Budget, includes a pilot program, allowing the opportunity for young hunters, ages 12 and 13, to hunt deer with firearms and crossbows through 2023 if a county authorizes such action within their municipality. Broome County is passing this local law as hunting is a valued tradition for many families, and this new opportunity allows experienced, adult hunters to introduce the value of hunting to the next generation. Furthermore, teaching young people safe, responsible, and ethical hunting practices will ensure a rewarding experience for the youth, while providing quality food to families and contributing to important deer management population control practices.

Section 2. Pilot Program Authorization

Pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law, ECL 11-0935, Broome County elects to participate in the temporary program to allow for young hunters, ages twelve (12) and thirteen (13), to hunt deer with a firearm, to include rifles, shotguns, and muzzle loaded firearms or a crossbow and may be extended pursuant to any adopted changes authorized by the State.

Section 3. State Requirements to Adhere Once Authorized

Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt deer with the following requirements to be followed:

- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt deer under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age 21 years or older, with a rifle, shotgun, or muzzle loading firearm in areas where and during the hunting season in which such firearms may be used; and
- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt deer under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age 21 years or older, with a crossbow during the times when other hunters may use crossbows; and

- Supervision by a licensed adult hunter, age twenty-one (21) years or older, with at least three (3) years of experience who exercises dominion and control over the youth hunter at all times is required; and
- All licensed twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old hunters as well as their adult supervisors shall be required to wear fluorescent orange or pink clothing while engaged in hunting to an extent and covering so designated pursuant to the law, rules, and regulations promulgated by the State of New York; and
- All licensed twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old hunters shall remain at ground level while hunting deer with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader; and
- Notwithstanding any State or Federal Law to the contrary, this local law shall not authorize the hunting of bear by twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year olds with a firearm or crossbow.

Section 4. Local Law Filing Requirements

A copy of this local law shall be sent to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as well as the NYS Department of State

Section 5. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law, or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, effect or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 6. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.