

9682

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 23, 2012

Introduced by M. of A. RYAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to permitting hunting with crossbows in certain circumstances; and to amend chapter 483 of the laws of 2010, amending the environmental conservation law relating to hunting by crossbow, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 11-0901 of the environmental  
2 conservation law, paragraphs a and b as amended by chapter 911 of the  
3 laws of 1990, paragraph c as amended by chapter 825 of the laws of 1973,  
4 subparagraph 1 of paragraph c as amended by chapter 407 of the laws of  
5 1976, paragraph d as amended by chapter 15 of the laws of 1976, para-  
6 graph e as amended by chapter 418 of the laws of 1996, paragraph f as  
7 amended by chapter 533 of the laws of 1973 and paragraph g as amended by  
8 chapter 34 of the laws of 1979, is amended to read as follows:  
9 3. a. Migratory game birds shall be taken only as permitted by regu-  
10 lations of the department adopted pursuant to section 11-0307.  
11 b. Wild deer and bear shall not be taken except by gun, CROSSBOW or by  
12 long bow. Where an open season, set forth in the table of open seasons  
13 in section 11-0907 or otherwise established by law or fixed by regu-  
14 lation, is specified as an open season for taking such game by shotgun,  
15 CROSSBOW or long bow only, or is specified as an open season for taking  
16 such game by long bow only, they shall not be taken except as so speci-  
17 fied.  
18 c. Wild small game and wild upland game birds shall be taken only by  
19 longbow, CROSSBOW or gun, or by the use of raptors as provided in title  
20 10 of this article, except that:  
21 (1) skunk, raccoon, bobcat, coyote, fox, mink and muskrat may be taken  
22 in any manner not prohibited in this section or in title 11 of the Fish  
23 and Wildlife Law, and  
24 (2) frogs may also be taken by spearing, catching with the hands, or  
25 by the use of a club or hook.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 d. Muskrat shall not be taken by the use of a spear and shall not be  
2 taken by shooting except that until the state of Vermont shall prohibit  
3 taking of muskrats on Lake Champlain by shooting, muskrats may be taken,  
4 by shooting with a firearm not larger than twenty-two caliber, on Lake  
5 Champlain, exclusive of the tributary streams flowing into such lake.  
6 Possession of pierced or stabbed muskrats shall be presumptive evidence  
7 that they were unlawfully taken. Wild mink shall not be taken by the use  
8 of firearms in the Northern Zone nor elsewhere within the state with a  
9 firearm larger than twenty-two caliber. Skunk, raccoon, bobcat, mink and  
10 muskrat shall not be taken by the use of smoke, chemicals, gas or  
11 poison. Beaver, fisher and otter shall not be hunted.

12 e. Wild pheasant shall be taken only by shotgun, CROSSBOW or long bow,  
13 or by the use of raptors as provided in title 10 of this article.  
14 Except as specifically authorized by regulation of the department  
15 adopted pursuant to section 11-1007 or whenever the department deter-  
16 mines that the taking of hen pheasants will result in better pheasant  
17 management and not be detrimental to the natural propagation of such  
18 pheasants, only male wild pheasants shall be taken.

19 f. No wildlife shall be taken with an arrow OR BOLT with an explosive  
20 head or shaft, or with an arrow, BOLT, dart or any device, propelled by  
21 any means, that is used for the purpose of injecting or delivering any  
22 type of drug into the blood system of such wildlife. Nothing in this  
23 paragraph shall be construed as prohibiting a wildlife biologist or  
24 employee of the department or anyone acting under a license from the  
25 department from using any method to take wildlife if he is doing so  
26 within the scope of his employment for the department, or pursuant to  
27 the license issued by the department.

28 g. Wildlife shall not be taken by the use of [a cross-bow, by] a long  
29 bow drawn, pulled, released, or held in a drawn position by any mechan-  
30 ical device attached to a portion of the bow other than the bowstring,  
31 or by the use of a device commonly called a spear gun.

32 S 2. Subdivision 17 of section 11-0901 of the environmental conserva-  
33 tion law, as added by chapter 483 of the laws of 2010, is amended and a  
34 new subdivision 18 is added to read as follows:

35 17. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of this [section] ARTI-  
36 CLE, the department may, by regulation, authorize the taking of big game  
37 by the use of a crossbow by any licensed person in any big game season  
38 [in which the use of a shotgun or muzzle loader is permitted, provided  
39 however that any such authorized taking of big game by the use of a  
40 crossbow in a season or special season in which the muzzle loader is the  
41 only firearm permitted shall succeed the regular open hunting season for  
42 deer established pursuant to section 11-0907 of this title].

43 18. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY INCONSISTENT PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE, THE  
44 DEPARTMENT MAY, BY REGULATION, AUTHORIZE THE TAKING OF WILDLIFE BY THE  
45 USE OF A CROSSBOW BY ANY LICENSED PERSON IN ANY OPEN SEASON.

46 S 3. Section 17 of chapter 483 of the laws of 2010, amending the  
47 environmental conservation law relating to hunting by crossbow, is  
48 amended to read as follows:

49 S 17. This act shall take effect October 1, 2010, except that sections  
50 four and five of this act shall take effect February 1, 2011, provided  
51 that any rules or regulations necessary for the timely implementation of  
52 the provisions of this act on its effective date shall be promulgated on  
53 or before February 1, 2011 and provided further that SECTIONS FOUR, SIX,  
54 SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN, ELEVEN, TWELVE, FOURTEEN AND FIFTEEN OF this  
55 act shall expire on December 31, 2012 when upon such date the provisions  
56 of [this act] SUCH SECTIONS shall be deemed repealed; provided, however,

1 that the amendments to paragraph a of subdivision 2 of section 11-0907  
2 of the environmental conservation law made by section eleven of this act  
3 shall be subject to the expiration and reversion of such paragraph  
4 pursuant to section 13 of chapter 600 of the laws of 1993, as amended,  
5 when upon such date the provisions of section twelve of this act shall  
6 take effect.

7 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.