STATE OF NEW YORK

8737

IN SENATE

March 5, 2024

Introduced by Sen. OBERACKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to establishing a hunting mentorship program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new section 11-0936 to read as follows:

§ 11-0936. Hunting mentorship program.

1. As used in this section, "qualified hunting mentor" or "mentor" means a person who satisfies all of the following requirements:

(a) the person is twenty-one years of age or older;

(b) the person holds both a valid certificate of completion of a hunters' education course and a current valid hunting license;

(c) the person is the parent or guardian of the person for whom they are serving as a mentor or is authorized by the parent or guardian to serve as a mentor; provided that this requirement does not apply to a person serving as a mentor for a person who is twenty-one years of age or older; and

(d) at all times when serving as a qualified hunting mentor, the person is within arm's reach of the person for whom they are serving as a mentor.

2. A person who is at least ten years of age may hunt small game, fowl, deer or bear in this state during applicable seasons without obtaining a hunting license or hunter's education course certification and may, while hunting, possess or control a firearm if at all times when hunting, the person is within arm's reach of a qualified hunting mentor.

3. A person who is authorized to hunt with a mentor under this section and a mentor under this section with whom that person hunts may jointly have only one firearm, only one bow, or, if hunting with a crossbow, only one crossbow in their possession or control while hunting.

4. A qualified hunting mentor may serve as a mentor under this section for only one person at a time on any hunting trip.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD14550-01-4