STATE OF NEW YORK

8644--A

Cal. No. 645

IN SENATE

February 26, 2024

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, amended on second report, ordered to a third reading, and to be reprinted as amended, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to electronic identification of hunting license holders and the tagging of deer and bears

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

Section 1. Subparagraph 1 of paragraph a of subdivision 1, subdivision 2 and subdivision 3 of section 11-0705 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by section 21 of part R of chapter 58 of the laws of 2013, are amended to read as follows:

(1) have such license, tag or privilege on the holder's person **in an electronic or other acceptable format pursuant to regulations,** while exercising any privilege of that license stated in section 11-0701 of this title, or while assisting or accompanying a minor in hunting as provided in section 11-0929 of this article, and

2. [~~a. Holders of a hunting license while exercising the privileges of such license, shall have the back tag issued with their license attached to and displayed on the back of the outer garment between the shoulders in such manner that all figures are plainly visible at all times.~~

~~b. The license tag for the current year only shall be displayed.~~

~~c. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs a and b of this subdivision, a license holder shall not be required to display such license tag in the Northern Zone or the Catskill Park.~~

~~3.~~] Failure of a licensee to have the holder's license, tag or license with bowhunting and/or muzzle-loading privilege included, on the holder's person **in an electronic or other acceptable format pursuant to regulations,** while hunting, fishing or trapping, is presumptive evidence that the holder is hunting, fishing or trapping, as the case may be, without holding the license, tag or license and bowhunting or muzzle-

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

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loading privilege required by subdivision 6 of section 11-0703 of this title.

§ 2. Paragraphs a and b of subdivision 1 of section 11-0911 of the environmental conservation law, as added by section 8 of part D of chapter 61 of the laws of 2000, are amended to read as follows:

a. When a wild deer is taken the taker shall immediately fill [~~in, using ink, ball point pen or indelible pencil, the deer tags issued to the taker~~] **out the deer tag in an electronic or other acceptable format** as provided in regulations of the department. [~~The taker shall immediately cut out or mark the month and date of kill on the tag and shall attach it to the deer, except that it need not be attached to the deer while it is being dragged or physically carried by the taker to a camp or point where other transportation is available.~~] The taker shall report details of the location and date of harvest and data on the deer as required by regulation.

b. When a bear is taken, the taker shall **immediately** fill out the bear tag [~~issued to taker~~] **in an electronic or other acceptable format** as provided in regulations of the department. The taker shall report details of the location and date of harvest and data on the bear as required by regulation.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that section two of this act shall take effect August 1, 2025.