

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2312

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 16, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SMULLEN, K. BROWN, TAGUE, PALMESANO, JENSEN, MANKTELOW, MAHER, McDONOUGH, LEMONDES, BRABENEC, DiPIETRO, GIGLIO, HAWLEY, DeSTEFANO, ANGELINO, E. BROWN -- read once and referred 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:

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

3 § 11-0936. Hunting mentorship program.

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

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

7 (b) the person holds both a valid certificate of completion of a hunt-  
8 ers' education course and a current valid hunting license;

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.