

STATE OF NEW YORK

1153

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 8, 2025

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:

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.

23 3. A person who is authorized to hunt with a mentor under this section
24 and a mentor under this section with whom that person hunts may jointly

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

LBD03556-01-5

- 1 have only one firearm, only one bow, or, if hunting with a crossbow,
- 2 only one crossbow in their possession or control while hunting.
- 3 4. A qualified hunting mentor may serve as a mentor under this section
- 4 for only one person at a time on any hunting trip.
- 5 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.