STATE OF NEW YORK

2014

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 14, 2025

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to removing the maximum age limit for firearms instruction exemptions

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

Section 1. Paragraph 7 of subdivision a of section 265.20 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 150 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

7. Possession, at an indoor or outdoor shooting range for the purpose of loading and firing, of a rifle or shotgun, the propelling force of which is gunpowder by a person [~~under sixteen years of age but~~] not under twelve **years of age**, under the immediate supervision, guidance and instruction of (a) a duly commissioned officer of the United States army, navy, air force, marine corps or coast guard, or of the national guard of the state of New York; or (b) a duly qualified adult citizen of the United States who has been granted a certificate as an instructor in small arms practice issued by the United States army, navy, air force or marine corps, or by the adjutant general of this state, by the national rifle association of America, a not-for-profit corporation duly organized under the laws of this state, or by a New York state 4-H certified shooting sports instructor; or (c) a parent, guardian, or a person over the age of eighteen designated in writing by such parent or guardian who shall have a certificate of qualification in responsible hunting, including safety, ethics, and landowner relations-hunter relations, issued or honored by the department of environmental conservation; or (d) an agent of the department of environmental conservation appointed to conduct courses in responsible hunting practices pursuant to article eleven of the environmental conservation law.

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

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§ 2. Paragraph 7-c of subdivision a of section 265.20 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 150 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

7-c. Possession for the purpose of loading and firing, of a rifle, pistol or shotgun, the propelling force of which may be either air, compressed gas or springs, by a person [~~under sixteen years of age but~~] not under twelve **years of age**, under the immediate supervision, guidance and instruction of (a) a duly commissioned officer of the United States army, navy, marine corps or coast guard, or of the national guard of the state of New York; or (b) a duly qualified adult citizen of the United States who has been granted a certificate as an instructor in small arms practice issued by the United States army, navy or marine corps, or by the adjutant general of this state, by the national rifle association of America, a not-for-profit corporation duly organized under the laws of this state, or by a New York state 4-H certified shooting sports instructor; or (c) a parent, guardian, or a person over the age of eighteen designated in writing by such parent or guardian who shall have a certificate of qualification in responsible hunting, including safety, ethics, and landowner relations-hunter relations, issued or honored by the department of environmental conservation.

§ 3. Paragraph 7-e of subdivision a of section 265.20 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 281 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

7-e. Possession and use of a pistol or revolver, at an indoor or outdoor pistol range located in or on premises owned or occupied by a duly incorporated organization organized for conservation purposes or to foster proficiency in small arms or at a target pistol shooting competition under the auspices of or approved by an association or organization described in paragraph [~~7-a~~] **seven-a** of this subdivision for the purpose of loading and firing the same by a person at least fourteen years of age [~~but under the age of twenty-one~~] who has not been previously convicted of a felony or serious offense, and who does not appear to be, or pose a threat to be, a danger to [~~himself~~] **themself** or to others; provided however, that such possession shall be of a pistol or revolver duly licensed to and shall be used under the immediate supervision, guidance and instruction of, a person specified in paragraph seven of this subdivision.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.