

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6360--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 11, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HARCKHAM, COMRIE, SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to clarifying provisions regarding the use of crossbows for hunting

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

1 Section 1. Section 11-0103 of the environmental conservation law is  
2 amended by adding a new subdivision 33 to read as follows:

3 33. "Long bow" includes longbows, recurve bows, compound bows, and  
4 crossbows.

5 § 2. Subparagraph 9 of paragraph b of subdivision 4 of section 11-0901  
6 of the environmental conservation law, as added by section 6 of part EE  
7 of chapter 55 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

8 (9) with a crossbow unless such crossbow shall consist of a bow and  
9 string, either compound or recurve, [~~that launches a minimum fourteen~~  
10 ~~inch bolt, not including point,~~] mounted upon a stock with a trigger  
11 that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. The trig-  
12 ger unit of such crossbow must have a working safety. The [~~minimum limb~~  
13 ~~width of such crossbow shall be seventeen inches, have a~~] minimum peak  
14 draw weight of such crossbow shall be one hundred pounds [~~and a maximum~~  
15 ~~peak draw weight of two hundred pounds. The minimum overall length of~~  
16 ~~such crossbow from buttstock to front of limbs shall be twenty four~~  
17 ~~inches~~].

18 § 3. Subparagraph 9 of paragraph c of subdivision 4 of section 11-0901  
19 of the environmental conservation law, as added by section 7 of part EE  
20 of chapter 55 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

21 (9) with a crossbow unless such crossbow shall consist of a bow and  
22 string, either compound or recurve, [~~that launches a minimum fourteen~~  
23 ~~inch bolt, not including point,~~] mounted upon a stock with a trigger

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

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1 that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. The trig-  
2 ger unit of such crossbow must have a working safety. The [~~minimum limb~~  
3 ~~width of such crossbow shall be seventeen inches, have a~~] minimum peak  
4 draw weight of such crossbow shall be one hundred pounds [~~and a maximum~~  
5 ~~peak draw weight of two hundred pounds. The minimum overall length of~~  
6 ~~such crossbow from buttstock to front of limbs shall be twenty four~~  
7 ~~inches~~].

8 § 4. Paragraph a of subdivision 1, paragraphs a and b of subdivision 8  
9 and subdivision 10 of section 11-0907 of the environmental conservation  
10 law, paragraph a of subdivision 1 as amended and subdivision 10 as added  
11 by section 14 and paragraphs a and b of subdivision 8 as amended by  
12 section 16 of part EE of chapter 55 of the laws of 2014, are amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 a. Wild deer without antlers or having antlers measuring less than  
15 three inches in length shall not be taken unless it is taken (1) by long  
16 bow in a special long bow season established in subdivision [~~3~~] three of  
17 this section, or (2) by muzzle-loading firearm [~~or crossbow~~] in a  
18 special muzzle-loading firearm season established in subdivision [~~8~~]  
19 eight of this section, or (3) by long bow in Westchester and Suffolk  
20 Counties in a year in which a regular season for deer of either sex is  
21 established for such counties, or (4) in a special open season for deer  
22 of either sex fixed by regulation pursuant to subdivision [~~5~~] five or  
23 [~~7~~] seven of section 11-0903 of this title, or (5) pursuant to a special  
24 antlerless deer license in a special open season for antlerless deer in  
25 a tract within a Wilderness Hunting Area fixed by regulation pursuant to  
26 subdivision [~~6~~] six of section 11-0903 of this title, or (6) pursuant to  
27 a deer management permit by a person eligible to take such deer pursuant  
28 thereto as provided in section 11-0913 of this title, or (7) pursuant to  
29 a permit issued to an eligible non-ambulatory person, pursuant to subdi-  
30 vision [~~2~~] two of section 11-0931 of this title, while in possession of  
31 a valid license issued by the department which authorizes the holder to  
32 hunt big game. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit  
33 the power of the department to designate by regulation an area or areas  
34 of the state consisting of a county or part of a county where such  
35 season shall apply and whether the number of such special permits shall  
36 be limited.

37 a. In every area identified in column one of the table set forth in  
38 subdivision two of this section, except those areas restricted to  
39 special seasons for taking deer by longbow only, special open seasons  
40 may be established by regulation for taking deer and/or bear, by the use  
41 of muzzle-loading firearms, of not less than .44 caliber shooting a  
42 single projectile[~~, or by the use of a crossbow,~~] by the holders of a  
43 hunting license with a valid muzzle-loading privilege.

44 b. Such special open season for the Southern Zone shall be for the  
45 seven day period immediately preceding the regular open season for deer  
46 stated in column two of the table set forth in subdivision two of this  
47 section, except that the department may, by regulation, fix such open  
48 season in the Southern Zone or any portion thereof to be either the  
49 seven days immediately preceding or immediately following the regular  
50 open season for deer[~~, provided, however, that any taking of deer or~~  
51 ~~bear by the use of a crossbow in a season or special season in which the~~  
52 ~~muzzle loader is the only firearm permitted shall succeed the regular~~  
53 ~~open hunting season for deer established pursuant to subdivision two of~~  
54 ~~of this section~~].

55 10. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, or any prior  
56 notwithstanding language in this article, the department may, by regu-

1 lation, authorize the taking of big game by the use of a crossbow by any  
2 licensed person in any big game season in any area [~~designated in items~~  
3 ~~(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (i), (k) and (l) of paragraph a of subdi-~~  
4 ~~vision two of this section~~] in which a [~~shotgun or muzzle loader~~] long  
5 bow is permitted [~~provided however, that any crossbow use during an~~  
6 ~~archery only season shall only take place during the last fourteen~~  
7 ~~consecutive days of such archery only season in the southern zone~~  
8 ~~provided that such archery only season shall consist of not less than~~  
9 ~~forty-five days and only during the last ten consecutive days of any~~  
10 ~~archery only season in the northern zone provided that such archery only~~  
11 ~~season shall consist of no less than twenty three days. Any muzzle load-~~  
12 ~~ing season which occurs at the same time as a special archery season may~~  
13 ~~only occur during times when crossbows are authorized to be used~~].

14 § 5. Section 11-0931 of the environmental conservation law is amended  
15 by adding a new subdivision 8 to read as follows:

16 8. a. No person in Westchester, Nassau, or Suffolk county shall  
17 discharge a crossbow within five hundred feet of a dwelling house, a  
18 farm building or farm structure actually occupied or used, or a school  
19 building or playground, public structure, or occupied factory or church.

20 b. A county not enumerated in paragraph a of this subdivision may opt  
21 by local law to be covered by the provisions of such paragraph.

22 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.