STATE OF NEW YORK

9450

IN SENATE

March 12, 2026

Introduced by Sen. HELMING -- 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 leucistic and melanistic deer

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

Section 1. Subdivision 4 of section 11-0901 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new paragraph b-1 to read as follows:

b-1. (1) No person shall hunt leucistic deer, including white deer and albino deer, or melanistic deer.

(2) The prohibition contained in subparagraph one of this paragraph shall not apply to: the owner or lessee of the dwelling house, or members of such owner's or lessee's immediate family residing therein, or a person in their employ, or the guest of the owner or lessee of the dwelling house acting with the consent of such owner or lessee.

(3) For the purpose of this paragraph, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(i) "leucistic deer" shall mean any deer displaying the recessive genetic trait of leucism, or the absence of melanin pigment, causing the deer's coat to be white in color on all parts of the body, excluding the tarsal glands, head, or parts of the head; and

(ii) "melanistic deer" shall mean any deer displaying the genetic mutation of melanism, causing the deer's coat to be black or dark brown in color on all parts of the body, excluding the tarsal glands, head, or parts of the head.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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