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:

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

§ 11-0936. Hunting mentorship program.

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

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

(b) the person holds both a valid certificate of completion of a hunters' education course and a current valid hunting license;

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.