STATE OF NEW YORK

1517

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 10, 2025

Introduced by Sens. O'MARA, WALCZYK -- 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 and the education law, in relation to hunting, fishing and outdoor education in high school physical education courses

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 3-0301 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new paragraph aa to read as follows:

aa. Disseminate information relating to hunting, fishing and outdoor education, in consultation with the commissioner of education, to promote instruction in physical education courses for grades nine through twelve in hunting, fishing and outdoor education. Such instruction shall include information on the:

(1) various hunting and fishing seasons;

(2) species that can be sought;

(3) necessary materials for obtaining hunting and fishing licenses;

(4) outdoor opportunities for recreation and exercise purposes; and

(5) history and benefits of hunting and fishing in this state's development.

§ 2. Section 809-a of the education law, as amended by chapter 442 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:

§ 809-a. Instruction in the safe use of firearms and in the game laws**; hunting, fishing and outdoor education. 1**. The officer, board, or commission authorized or required to prescribe courses of instructions in any school under state control, may authorize instructions to be given in the safe and proper use of firearms allowed by law to be used in the taking of wild game, and may also authorize instructions to be given in the study of game laws and of proper hunting and conservation

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

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practices. Such courses of instruction shall be approved by both the [~~education~~] department and the department of environmental conservation.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a public secondary school shall, upon the request of ten or more students enrolled in such school, provide, as a component of such school's physical education course, instruction in hunting, fishing and outdoor education, which shall be consistent with the courses required by the department of environmental conservation for license applicants. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of the department of environmental conservation, shall establish a curriculum for the hunting, fishing and outdoor education course, which shall include, but not be limited to, instruction on:

(a) various hunting and fishing seasons;

(b) species that can be sought;

(c) the necessary materials for obtaining hunting and fishing licenses;

(d) outdoor opportunities for recreation and exercise purposes; and

(e) history and benefits of hunting and fishing in this state's development.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.