

31 Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a
32 new section 11-0935 to read as follows:

33 § 11-0935. Deer hunting pilot program.

34 1. Notwithstanding subdivision one-a of section 11-0701 and the cross-
35 bow prohibition of subdivision one of section 11-0929, a hunting license
36 holder who is twelve or thirteen years of age may hunt deer with a
37 crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzle-loading firearm as provided in this
38 title in an eligible area provided that:

39 (a) such minor is accompanied by their parent or legal guardian, or by
40 a person designated in writing by such parent or legal guardian on a
41 form prescribed by the department who is twenty-one years of age or
42 older; and

43 (b) such parent, guardian or person has had at least three year's
44 experience in hunting deer; and

45 (i) such parent, guardian or person holds a hunting license; and

46 (ii) such parent, guardian or person maintains physical control over
47 the minor at all times while hunting. For the purposes of this paragraph
48 "physical control" shall mean that the physical proximity of such minor
49 to the parent, guardian or person is such that the parent, guardian or
50 person is reasonably able to issue verbal directions and instructions,
51 maintain constant visual contact, and otherwise provide guidance and
52 supervision to the minor; and

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1 (iii) such parent, guardian or person and the minor remain at ground
2 level at all times while hunting; and

3 (c) such parent, guardian or person and the minor shall each display
4 either a minimum total of two hundred fifty square inches of solid
5 fluorescent orange or pink or patterned fluorescent orange or pink
6 consisting of no less than fifty percent fluorescent orange or pink
7 material worn above the waist and visible from all directions, or a hat
8 or cap with no less than fifty percent of the exterior consisting of
9 solid fluorescent orange or pink material and visible from all
10 directions.

11 2. For the purposes of this section "eligible area" shall include a
12 county that has passed a local law authorizing participation in the
13 pilot program and has notified the department of such participation,
14 provided, however, that the following counties: Westchester; Richmond;
15 Bronx; New York; Kings; Queens; Nassau; and Suffolk shall not be deemed
16 to be eligible.

17 3. The department shall prepare a report by February first of each
18 year including the following information at a minimum: number of
19 violations; hunting related incidents and revocations pursuant to
20 section 11-0719; the number of counties participating; the number of
21 minors participating; and the number of deer taken.

22 § 2. This act shall take effect June 1, 2021 and shall expire and be
23 deemed repealed December 31, 2023.