

LOCAL LAW 2021-001

LOCAL LAW TO BE ENACTED BY  
THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
IN THE  
COUNTY OF ERIE  
LOCAL LAW INTRO. – NO. 1-1 - 2021  
LOCAL LAW – NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2021

**A Local Law authorizing twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow during hunting season with the supervision of a licensed adult**

**SECTION 1. Legislative Intent**

Historically, twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old residents in New York have only been able to hunt deer, with a bow or small game with appropriate firearms. This rule has left New York as the only state to prohibit twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old hunters from using firearms to hunt deer.

The 2021 New York State Budget includes legislation that would allow residents aged twelve (12) and thirteen (13) to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow under the supervision of an experienced adult hunter, provided the county in which they are hunting has opted into the program pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law 11-0935.

Environmental Conservation Law (ENV) 11-0935 provides a pilot program for counties to allow young residents, aged twelve (12) and thirteen (13) years old, the opportunity to safely learn to hunt deer with firearms under adult supervision. It is the intent of this law to permit twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old residents to hunt deer with firearms and crossbows, by opting into New York's new pilot program pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law 11-0935.

Erie County is passing this local law as hunting is a valued tradition for many families, and this new opportunity allows experienced, adult hunters to introduce the value of hunting to the next generation. Furthermore, teaching young people safe, responsible, and ethical hunting practices will ensure a rewarding experience for the youth, while providing quality food to families and contributing to important deer management population control practices.

**SECTION 2. Pilot Program Authorization**

Pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law, ECL 11-0935, Erie County elects to participate in the temporary program allowing young hunters, ages twelve (12) and thirteen (13), to hunt deer with a firearm, to include rifles, shotguns, and muzzle loaded firearms or crossbow through 2023.

### **SECTION 3. State Requirements to Adhere Once Authorized**

Per New York State requirements twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt deer with the following requirements:

- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, aged 21 years or older, with a rifle, shotgun, or muzzle loading firearm in areas where, and during the hunting season in which, such firearms may be used; and
- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt deer under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, aged 21 years or older, with a crossbow during the times when other hunters may use crossbows; and
- Supervision of a licensed adult hunter, aged twenty-one (21) years or older, with at least three (3) years of experience who exercises dominion and control over the youth hunter at all times is required; and
- All licensed twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old hunters as well as their adult supervisors shall be required to wear fluorescent orange or pink clothing while engaged in hunting to an extent and covering so designated pursuant to the law, rules, and regulations promulgated by the State of New York; and
- All licensed twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old hunters shall remain at ground level while hunting deer with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader; and
- Notwithstanding any State or Federal Law to the contrary, this local law shall not authorize the hunting of bear by twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old hunters with a firearm or crossbow.

### **SECTION 4. Effective Date**

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

### **SECTION 5. Severability**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law or the application thereof, to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional such order of judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

**Sponsors** Legislator Todaro, Legislator Greene, Legislator Lorigo, Legislator Mills