

Proposed Local Law Number 10 Of 2023

County Of Ulster

A Local Law Amending Part II, §218, Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster, To Extend Participation In The New York State Hunting Pilot Program For 12 – 13 Year Old Deer Hunters

BE IT ENACTED, by the County Legislature of the County of Ulster, New York, as follows:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND PURPOSE.

In the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Bill the New York State Legislature amended New York State Environmental Conservation Law §11-0935 to establish a pilot program wherein a hunting license holder who is 12 or 13 years of age may hunt deer with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun or muzzle loading firearm under certain conditions. This pilot program was offered to upstate counties and required interested municipalities to opt-in to the program. Through adoption of Local Law No. 5 of 2021, the Ulster County Legislature authorized participation in the temporary pilot program as an “eligible area” through December 31, 2023. The adopted New York State Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Bill has extended the pilot program through December 31, 2025.

The Ulster County Legislature continues to find that hunting with youth provides quality time for parents, guardians and other mentor figures to bond with their children, other family members and friends in an outdoor setting and presents an excellent opportunity to introduce youth to nature, stewardship, conservation, and responsible wildlife management. Hunting with youth also provides an opportunity to mentor and instruct youth hunters regarding safe and responsible hunting.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to amend Local Law No. 5 of 2021 to extend the county’s participation in the hunting pilot program established for 12-13 year old deer hunters, in accordance with Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-0935 (ECL §11-0935) through December 31, 2025.

SECTION 2. Part II, §218-2 (A) of the Code of the County of Ulster is amended to read as follows:

The hunting pilot program established for 12-13 year-old deer hunters, as enacted by the New York State Legislature in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Bill, **as amended by the New York State Legislature in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Bill**, is defined as a temporary pilot program for upstate counties through December 31, **2025** 2023.

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SECTION 3. Part II, §218-3 of the Code of the County of Ulster is amended to read as follows:

Ulster County hereby authorizes continued participation in the Hunting Pilot Program which allows 12-13 year-olds to hunt deer within Ulster County in accordance with the provisions of ECL §11-0935-, **for so long as the Hunting Pilot Program is authorized by New York State Law.**

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such adjudication, shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the particular provision directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

SECTION 5. FILING.

A copy of this local law shall be sent to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in accord with the provisions of ECL §11-0935(2) as well as to the New York State Secretary of State.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall take effect upon its filing with the New York State Secretary of State.