



Monroe County Legislature

Office of the Republican Conference

July 24, 2024

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, NY 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
No. <u>240262</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
AGENDA/CHARTER -L

Subject: Enacting a Local Law Amending Chapter 286 of the General Local Laws of the Administrative Code of Monroe County Entitled "Junior Deer Hunting Pilot Program"

Honorable Legislators:

In 2021, this Honorable Body enacted a local law pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law 11-0935 that created a Junior Deer Hunter Pilot Program. Prior to the adoption of the 2021-22 New York State Budget, the minimum age for a junior hunter to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow with adult supervision was fourteen (14). Section 11-0935 of the Environmental Conservation Law allowed counties to create pilot programs for twelve- and thirteen-year-olds and was recently extended through December 31, 2025. The Junior Deer Hunter Pilot Program offers an opportunity for young outdoor enthusiasts to engage in one of New York State's most popular recreational activities. With hunting being a significant part of the state's cultural and ecological landscape, extending this program would ensure that young hunters receive the proper guidance and education from experienced adults. This would not only enhance their skills but also instill a deep respect for wildlife conservation and safety, developing a new generation of responsible hunters.

By extending the Junior Deer Hunter Pilot Program, we can continue to provide young hunters with invaluable hands-on experience that cannot be replicated in a classroom setting. The mentorship from seasoned hunters helps young participants learn essential skills such as tracking, patience, and ethical hunting practices. These skills are not only crucial for hunting but also teach valuable life lessons about responsibility, respect for nature, and the importance of conservation efforts.

Safety is a paramount concern, and the structured environment of the Junior Deer Hunter Pilot Program ensures that all participants are taught the necessary safety protocols and ethical standards. The program includes comprehensive safety measures and supervised hunting experiences, reducing the risk of accidents and promoting a culture of safety among young hunters.

Extending the program will allow more young people to learn these critical safety practices in a controlled and supportive environment.

Finally, extending the Junior Deer Hunter Pilot Program aligns with broader conservation and wildlife management goals. By fostering an appreciation for hunting and wildlife management at a young age, the program helps ensure the long-term sustainability of New York's diverse ecosystems. Participants learn about the balance between wildlife populations and their habitats and how responsible hunting practices contribute to this balance. This educational component is crucial for developing informed and conscientious hunters who will continue to support and advocate for conservation efforts throughout their lives.

The specific legislative action required is to adopt the local law as attached.

This is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(26) ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment") and is not subject to further review under the State Environment Quality Review Act. This action will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the current Monroe County budget.

We recommend that this matter to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body. Because the issuance of hunting permits begins September 1, we are asking that this be declared a Matter of Importance so that it may be considered at this month's committees and approved at the August meeting of the Legislature.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steve Brew
Monroe County Legislature
Republican Leader



Paul Dondorfer
Monroe County Legislature
Deputy Republican Leader



Jackie Smith
Monroe County Legislature
Assistant Republican Leader



G. Blake Keller
Monroe County Legislator
District 1



Sean McCabe
Monroe County Legislator
District 6

By Legislators _____ and _____

Intro. No. ____

LOCAL LAW NO. ____ OF 2024

ENACT A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 286 OF THE GENERAL LOCAL LAWS OF MONROE COUNTY ENTITLED “JUNIOR DEER HUNTING PILOT PROGRAM”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 286 of the General Local Laws of Monroe County is hereby amended as follows:

§ 286-2 Legislative intent. The intent of this Local Law is to authorize Monroe County to permit 12- and 13-year-old individuals to participate in the new hunting opportunities pursuant to Environment Conservation Law § 11-0935. The enacted 2021-2022 New York State Budget included a pilot program expanding the opportunity for young hunters, aged 12 and/or 13, to hunt with firearms and crossbow through 2023 if a County authorizes such participation in the pilot program within their municipality via local law and this provision was later extended through 2025. Monroe County's hunters are a large and important part of our community and this opportunity would allow adult hunters the ability to introduce and teach the proper values and ethics of hunting to the next generation. In addition, teaching such safe, proper and lawful hunting methods to young people will provide a rewarding and productive experience while providing food to families across the area and contributing to deer population control efforts.

§ 286-3 Authorizing pilot program in Monroe County. Pursuant to Section 11-0935 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, Monroe County hereby authorizes participation in the temporary pilot program to allow a hunting license holder who is twelve or thirteen years of age to hunt deer with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzle-loading firearm through ~~2023~~2025.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Legislature shall notify the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation upon final adoption of this local law in accordance with Section 11-0935 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law.

Section 3. This local law shall take effect after filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 27 of New York Municipal Home Rule Law.

Added language is underlined

Deleted language is ~~stricken~~

_____ Committee; _____, 2024 - CV: _____
File No. 24-____.LL

ENACTED: Date: _____, 2024 Vote: _____

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: _____ VETOED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LOCAL LAW: _____