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COUNTY OF DELAWARE

LOCAL LAW NO. 17 of the Year 2024

**LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING 12- AND 13-YEAR OLD LICENSED HUNTERS TO HUNT DEER  
WITH A FIREARM OR CROSSBOW DURING HUNTING SEASON WITH THE SUPERVISION OF  
AN ADULT LICENSED HUNTER**

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors as follows:

**Section 1. Legislative Intent**

The intent of this Local Law is to authorize Delaware County to permit 12- and 13-year old individuals to participate in the new and safe hunting opportunities in accordance with Environment Conservation Law § 11-0935. The enacted 2021-2022 New York State Budget includes a pilot program, allowing the opportunity for young hunters, ages 12 and 13, to hunt deer with firearms and crossbow through 2025 if a county authorizes such action within their municipality. Delaware 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, Delaware County elects to participate in the temporary program to allow for 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 2025.

**Section 3. State Requirements to Adhere Once Authorized**

Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt deer with the following requirements to be followed:

- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age 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, age 21 years or older, with a crossbow during the times when other hunters may use crossbows; and
- Supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age 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. Local Law Filing Requirements

A copy of this local law shall be sent to the New York State Department of Conservation as well as the NYS Department of State

#### Section 5. Severability

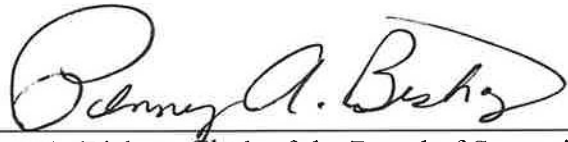
If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law, or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment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

#### Section 5. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing and publication in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule.

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as Local Law No. 17 of 2024 of the County of Delaware was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors on April 24, 2024, and was approved. Such local law was not subject to permissive referendum in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph above.



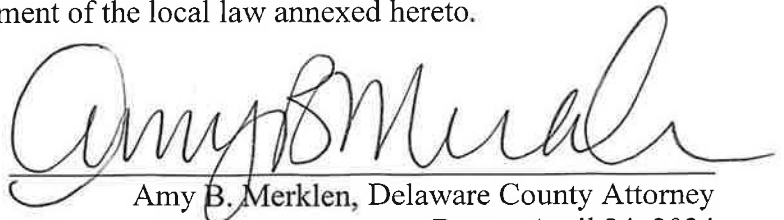
Penny A. Bishop, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Date: April 24, 2024

(Seal)

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF DELAWARE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing local law contains the correct text and that all proper proceedings have been had or taken for the enactment of the local law annexed hereto.



Amy B. Merklen, Delaware County Attorney

Date: April 24, 2024