

## COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

### Local Law Intro. No. II of the Year 2024

#### **A 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 Jefferson County Board of Legislators as follows:

##### **Section 1. Legislative Intent**

The intent of this Local Law is to authorize Jefferson County to permit 12 and 13 year old individuals to participate in the new hunting opportunities provided by Environment Conservation Law § 11-0935. The enacted 2021-2022 New York State Budget, included a pilot program, allowing the opportunity for young hunters, ages 12 and 13, to hunt deer with firearms and crossbow through 2023 if a county authorizes such action within their municipality by local law. An extender has since been enacted extending the pilot through 2025, and requiring the passage of an additional local law. Jefferson 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 values 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 population control practices.

##### **Section 2. Pilot Program Authorization**

Pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law § 11-0935, Jefferson 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**

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

- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or person designated in writing by such parent or legal guardian on a form prescribed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, who is twenty one years of age or older; and

- Such parent, guardian or person holds a hunting license; and
- Such parent, guardian or person maintains physical control over the minor at all times while hunting. For purposes of this paragraph “physical control” shall mean that the physical proximity of such minor to the parent, guardian, or person is such that the parent, guardian or person is reasonably able to issue verbal directions and instructions, maintain constant visual contact, and otherwise provide guidance and supervision to the minor; and
- Such parent, guardian, or person and the minor remain at ground level at all times while hunting; and
- Such parent, guardian or person and the minor shall each display either a minimum total of two hundred fifty square inches of solid fluorescent orange or pink or patterned fluorescent orange or pink consisting of no less than fifty percent fluorescent orange or pink material worn above the waist and visible from all directions, or a hat or cap with no less than fifty percent of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or pink material and visible from all directions.

#### **Section 4. Local Law Filing Requirements**

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

#### **Section 5. Severability Clause**

If any part of this local law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not effect the remainder of this law. The County hereby declares that it would have passed this local law and each section or subsection thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of these sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

#### **Section 6. Effective Date**

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of New York in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

Setting Time and Place for Public Hearing on Local Law Intro. No. II of 2024

By Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolved, That this Board of Legislators shall hold a public hearing on a proposed local law entitled " A 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" on September 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Legislators Chambers, 195 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY, and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Board of Legislators shall give notice of said public hearing as required by law.

Seconded by Legislator: \_\_\_\_\_

---

State of New York     )

      ) ss.:  
County of Jefferson    )

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Board of Legislators of said County of Jefferson with the original thereof on file in my office and duly adopted by said Board at a meeting of said Board on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and that the same is a true and correct copy of such Resolution and the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

---

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

---