

County of Tioga

Local Law No. 2 of the Year 2025.

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 an adult licensed hunter.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the County of Tioga as follows:

SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE INTENT

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Youth Deer Hunting Pilot Program (Environmental Conservation Law §11-0935) has been extended from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2028. Tioga County participated in this pilot program by way of Local Law No. 3 of 2021 with a sunset date of December 31, 2023 and Local Law No. 1 of 2024 with a sunset date of December 31, 2025. It is the intent of this Local Law to authorize Tioga County to permit twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year-old individuals to participate in the extension of the NYSDEC Youth Deer Hunting pilot program in accordance with Environmental Conservation Law §11-0935 for the fall 2026 and beyond as long as the State law continues to be extended.

The enacted 2025-2026 New York State Budget extended the pilot program allowing counties to opt-in by way of Local Law to provide an opportunity for young hunters, ages twelve (12) and thirteen (13), to continue to hunt deer with firearms and crossbow through 2028 if a county authorizes such action within their municipality. Tioga County is passing this Local Law, as hunting is a valued tradition for many families and this continued 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, Tioga County elects to participate in the extended pilot 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 2028 and beyond as long as the State law continues to be extended.

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:

- A. Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age twenty-one (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
- B. Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age twenty-one (21) years or older, with a crossbow during the times when other hunters may use crossbows; and
- C. 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
- D. 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
- E. 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
- F. 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 olds 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 Environmental Conservation as well as the New York State 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 judgement 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 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect January 1, 2026 in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule and will remain in effect pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) §11-0935.



Department of State
Corporations, State Records & UCC

New York State
Department of State
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS,
STATE RECORDS AND
UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12231-0001
dos.ny.gov

Local Law Filing

Pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §27

Local Law Number ascribed by the legislative body of the local government listed below:

2 of the year 20 25

Local Law Title: 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 an adult licensed hunter.

Be it enacted by the Tioga County Legislature of the
(Name of Legislative Body)

☒ County ☐ City ☐ Town ☐ Village
(Select one)

of Tioga as follows on the attached pages:
(Name of Local Government)

For Office Use Only

Department of State Local Law Index Number: _____ of the year 20 ____

(The local law number assigned by the Department of State for indexing purposes may be different from the local law number ascribed by the legislative body of the local government.)

Local Law Filing

(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)

1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto ascribed as local law number 2 of 2025 of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of Tioga was duly passed by the Tioga County Legislature on September 16 2025 in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

(Name of Legislative Body)

2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer*.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____ 20____ and was (approved)(not approved)(repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on _____ 20____ in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

(Name of Legislative Body)

(Elective Chief Executive Officer*)

3. (Final adoption by referendum.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____ 20____ and was (approved)(not approved)(repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on _____ 20____.

(Name of Legislative Body)

(Elective Chief Executive Officer*)

Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory)(permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general)(special)(annual) election held on _____ 20____ in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____ 20____ and was (approved)(not approved)(repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on _____ 20____. Such local law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of _____ 20____ in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

(Name of Legislative Body)

(Elective Chief Executive Officer*)

* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

Local Law Filing

5. (City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20 ____ of the City of _____ having submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of Section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on _____ 20 ____ became operative.

6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed thereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20 ____ of the County of _____ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November _____ 20 ____ pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certification.)

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 the paragraph _____ above.

(Seal)


Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

September 16, 2025

(Date)