

Legislation

(From Page 1)

crossbow hunting opportunities and remove size restrictions that are preventing newer crossbow models from being used in New York.

Another crossbow bill, A06815A/S05802A, would allow for the hunting of deer by individuals age 60 and older with a crossbow in a special archery season.

A02084A/S04976

One of the hot topics of 2023, and also years prior is a proposed ban on the use of lead-ammunition by hunters on state lands. The bill did not survive the Senate last year and as of Jan. 3 was returned to the Assembly.

It's likely to be back on the floor again and if passed would specifically prohibit the use of lead ammunition in the taking of wildlife on wildlife management areas, state forests, forest preserves, state parks or any other state-owned land that is open for hunting and on land contributing surface water to the New York city water supply.

A06663A/S138A

Another from last year's session. This bill would put an end to New York firearms instructors being certified by the NRA, but rather by the Division of Criminal Justice Services, which would have sole authority to develop curricula for certifying instructors in small arms practice.

A3855/S5763

New York's sporting community has been alarmed over this bill, including via social media. If passed, it would add additional requirements for the purchase of a firearm, shotgun or rifle, including making a person apply for a hunting license prior to a firearm purchase, taking a 5-hour gun safety course and exam, passing a shooting range test with 90% accuracy, providing notarized proof of a passed drug test and mental health evaluation. This bill has been proposed in the past.

S08461

Sponsored by Senate ENCON Committee Chair Peter Harkham, the "Sporting Range Good Neighbor Act," as it's called would require shotgun trap and skeet fields to be a minimum of 600 yards by 300 yards. If not, a roof-covered backstop would need to be constructed to capture lead.

A00508

This one-house bill, if passed, would put an end to New York's pheasant-rearing program as it would prohibit raising pheasants for hunting purposes and close the Reynolds Game Farm in Ithaca. It's sponsor, New York City-based (D-67) Linda Rosenthal, claims in the bill's justification text that farm-raised pheasants are "easy targets for hunters."

This bill authorizes a person to pass his or her guns to an immediate family member through their estate. The NYSafe Act omitted provisions enabling the transference of family firearms considered heirlooms upon the death of an immediate family member. This amendment keeps these prized possessions within the family.

A06312/S00196

Along the same lines as A01553, but with more provisions, this bill authorizes the transfer of certain weapons from an estate to an immediate member of the decedent's family, and expands definition of immediate family to include siblings, grandparents and grandchildren. It also goes after other NYSafe Act provisions including requirements for the sellers of ammunition and seeks to ensure that pistol permit applications remain private.

A08443

This one-house bill seeks to halt New York firearms owners who are taking their business across state lines following the passage of the Concealed Carry Improvement Act's implementation of the background checks (and previous identification requirement) for ammunition purchases. It also applies to firearms and authorizes the Attorney General to prosecute out-of-state firearm dealers who sell firearms and ammunition to New York residents. It would require them to contact the New York State police prior to any sale to a resident of the State of New York.

A04684

Groups of hunters or members of scholastic shooting sports teams who travel together could be affected by this bill, which would require all motor vehicles transporting five or more weapons or ammunition for five or more weapons to have a separate storage area secured by padlock or combination lock. It imposes a \$1,000 to \$5,000 fine for noncompliance.

A06853/ S01655

This bill would require applications for a license to carry or possess a pistol or revolver to be acted upon within 180 days (roughly six months). The justification text of this bill states there have been numerous reported delays in this process that result in inaction upon a license application taking well over a year with no justification provided for the delay.

A06787/S00544

If passed, this bill would prohibit the purchase of more than one firearm during any period of 30 days. New York City law currently limits firearms purchases to one every 90 days, and four states (California, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia) have laws limiting at least some types of firearm purchases or sales to one per month.

To keep track of these and other bills, visit <https://assembly.state.ny.us>.