



MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION TO A.9424/S8737

LOWERING THE HUNTING AGE FOR SMALL AND LARGE (DEER AND BEARS) ANIMALS TO TEN!

**To: Assemblymember Glick, Chair, Environmental Conservation Committee;
Senator Harcham, Chair, Environmental Conservation Committee**

**Cc: Speaker Carl E. Heastie;
Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins**

The League of Humane Voters®/NY strongly opposes lowering the hunting age to ten.

We oppose this bill for the following reasons:

Ten-year-olds will have access to high-powered weapons, including AR-15 semi-automatic rifles that have been implicated in massacres throughout the country.

Although the magazines are limited to ten rounds plus one in the chamber, there are indicators that some hunters are building their own weapons to avoid the legal modifications NYS has put in place. One commenter on Reddit named *Luty-go-boom* wrote:

Use civil disobedience and build your lower as you'd like, then have you pick of uppers shipped straight to your door.

That is one of many statements made by angry gun users about the NYS law that limited the magazine capacity. It highlights the frightening free-for-all in a typical hunting situation - weapons themselves are not inspected to ensure against modification to a more lethal weapon!

Unfortunately, it is not well-known that AR-15s are the weapon of choice for younger hunters as they are lightweight and can shoot multiple bullets with little effort. As just one bullet can kill, under current law 11 people or animals can be killed with one magazine and a round in the chamber. Normally, multiple magazines are carried by hunters who can replace a spent magazine with a fresh one in seconds.

The fact that a 21-year-old can accompany a ten-year-old offers little to no consolation as the weapons are still in the hands of children, and one slip away from being lethal. Even more frightening is that bullets can travel a mile if unimpeded. The word “shot” is already highly sanitized. To understand how people - and animals - actually die from AR-15 bullets, please view: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-damage-to-human-body/>

The hunting age for “big game” has already been lowered to 12 in most NYS counties that are hoping to capitalize on the sales tax of weapons and ammunition. Clearly, the purpose of lowering the hunting age to ten is to further bolster the continuation of a declining activity for the taxes on weapons - hardly a popular goal.



While wildlife managers claim that killing bears is not market hunting, it was disgraceful to find that the NY wildlife division takes advertising from companies that will pay hunters for bear gallbladders, bear feet with claws, and even bear skulls. The photo to the left was taken directly from the hard copy of **the official NYS Hunting and Trapping Guide**. Hunters receive this hard copy when they purchase a hunting license. **[The appalling advertisements will not be seen in the online version.]**

Hunting is declining, and recruitment of young hunters is down as society places a high value on the environment, biodiversity, wildlife watching, and *compassion* for the wild animals of our fields and forests. So, it isn't surprising that there's an effort to ensure that firearms, bullets, crossbows and bolts continue to be bought for an economy that ties the weapons business to state government through dependency on their excise taxes while county government profits from the sales tax. This sad partnership leads to the management of *game species* into higher than normal numbers, while the remaining wild animals are neglected.

Photo Credit: NY Hunting & Trapping 2022 – 2023 Official Guide to Laws and Regulations Volume 16, Issue No. 1, September 2022



Another unwelcome side effect of lowering the hunting age is that firearms manufacturers wishing to commercially profit are adding color to their lethal products in order to appeal to young people. Shockingly, AR-15s are sold in baby blue and pink colors as though they are fun toys. Please see more fun AR-15s at the link below.

https://www.google.com/search?q=ar-15+rifles+in+blue+and+pink&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS809US809&oq=ar-15+rifles+in+blue+and+pink&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAlQIRigATIHCAlMQIRigAdIBCtE2NzE1ajBqN6gCCLACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

We urge NYS, a strong proponent of common sense gun control, to say a resounding “NO!” to this latest dangerous effort to further lower the hunting age. In addition to the merciless killing of wildlife, it will obviously result in an increase of high-powered weapons wielded by ten-year-olds - something our society can literally live without.

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.