



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John W. Mannion

## Senator Mannion's Bill Allows for Rifle Hunting for Deer and Bear for the First Time in Onondaga County Beginning this Saturday November 18th

JOHN W. MANNION November 17, 2023

| ISSUE: **DEER HUNTING, CENTRAL NEW YORK, HUNTING LICENSES, GUN LAWS**

SYRACUSE, NY – Senator John W. Mannion today reminded Onondaga County hunters that rifle hunting for deer and bear will be legally permitted for the first time this Saturday November 18th through December 10th.

Previously the only legal hunting methods in Onondaga County were pistols, shotguns, muzzle loaders, bows, and crossbows. Senator Mannion's legislation (S6125) added the use of rifles, which makes safe hunting easier and reduces confusion in the hunting community.

"Hunting is part of Central New York's heritage and is vital to conservation and big game population management. My legislation makes clear what is allowable to safely harvest deer and bear in Onondaga County. I'm incredibly grateful for the close working partnership with many local hunters and sportsmen's organizations in passing this legislation. I wish all hunters a safe and enjoyable season."

Onondaga County was one of the only counties in the state where rifle hunting was not permitted for big game. Senator Mannion worked closely with local sportsmen to change the law.

Senator Mannion is committed to hunting safety and sponsored legislation to extend the Youth Deer Hunting pilot program. Since 2021, the DEC program has allowed 12 and 13-year-olds to learn to safely hunt with experienced mentors. It has proven to be successful, safe, and popular. Senator Mannion's Youth Deer Hunting legislation passed in the FY 2023-24 budget and authorized the pilot program until 2025.

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