

**2023 LOCAL LAWS:**

<b>1 OF 2023</b>	<b>A LOCAL LAW OF THE COUNTY OF RENSSELAER PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW</b>
<b>2 OF 2023</b>	<b>A LOCAL LAW AMENDING AND EXTENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2021 RELATIVE TO 12 AND 13 YEAR OLD LICENSED HUNTERS</b>

Local Law No. 1 of the year 2023

A Local Law Of The County Of Rensselaer Providing Real Property Tax Exemptions For Volunteer Firefighters And Ambulance Workers Pursuant To Section 466-A Of The Real Property Tax Law

Sponsored By: Hoffman, Loveridge, Bayly, Herrington, Casale, Choquette, Fiacco, Gendron, Grant, Maloney, Patire, Stall, Wysocki, Weaver

Be it enacted by the County Legislature of the County of Rensselaer as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent and Purpose.

a. The Rensselaer County Legislature finds and determines that attracting and retaining quality volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel is one of the most critical problems facing a number of communities in Rensselaer County and that maintaining effective emergency protection depends on the ability to train and retain volunteers.

b. The Legislature finds and determines that it is essential for the County and its municipalities to provide real property tax exemptions as an incentive to attract new volunteers and help combat a persistent and alarming decline in the number of volunteers serving as active responders to fire and medical emergencies and unless recruits are found to replace retiring volunteers and seasoned members are encouraged to continue their volunteer service, the health and safety of citizens served by the volunteer firefighter and emergency medical personnel corps may be jeopardized.

c. The Legislature further finds and determines that real property tax exemptions are an appropriate way to recognize the personal sacrifices and dedication of these community-spirited men and women who unselfishly give their time and risk their safety to protect their neighbors without compensation.

d. The purpose of this Local Law is to adopt the real property tax exemptions provided for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in accordance with Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law to read as follows.

Section 2. Real Property Tax Exemption.

Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in the County of Rensselaer shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of 10 percent of the assessed value of such property for County purposes, exclusive of special assessments.

Section 3. Qualifications.

Such exemption shall only be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance services if:

- (a) the applicant resides in the County of Rensselaer and is a member of an incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service which provides service within the city, village, town or school district;

- (b) the real property which is the subject of such exemption is the primary residence of the applicant;
- (c) the real property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Local Law; and
- (d) the applicant has obtained and displayed a certificate issued by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department indicating that the applicant has been an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department for at least two years or the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least two years.

#### Section 4. Twenty year active members.

Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent exemption as authorized by this section for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the County of Rensselaer.

#### Section 5. Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers killed in the line of duty.

An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers killed in the line of duty may receive the real property tax exemption if:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty; and
2. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years; and
3. Such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

#### Section 6. Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers with at least Twenty Years of Service.

An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers with twenty years of service may receive the real property tax exemption if:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty.

2. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty years.
3. Such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption of such property prior to the death of such volunteer.

Section 7. Application process.

1. Applications for such exemption shall be filed with the assessor of the city, village or town on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner for the Office of Real Property Tax Services.
2. The assessor of the city, village or town shall have the duty and responsibility of procuring and filing a copy of such certification prior to granting the exemption provided for by this Local Law.

Section 8. No diminution of current benefits.

No applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of law on the effective date of this Local Law shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Local Law.

Section 9. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect on January 1, 2024 and shall apply to taxable status dates occurring on or after such date.

**Local Law ADOPTED by the following vote:**

**Ayes: 17**

**Nays: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**February 14, 2023**

Approved by the County Executive Steven F. McLaughlin

# Local Law Filing

New York State Department of State  
Division of Corporations, State Records and Uniform Commercial Code  
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12231-0001  
[www.dos.state.ny.us/corps](http://www.dos.state.ny.us/corps)

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

County of Rensselaer

Local Law No. 2 of the year 2023

A local law Amending and Extending Local Law No. 3 of 2021 Relative to 12 and 13 Year Old Licensed Hunters

By: Herrington, Casale, Maloney, Patire, Wysocki

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

County of Rensselaer as follows:

## Section 1. Legislative Intent

The intent of this Local Law is to Amend and Extend Local Law No. 3 of 2021 which authorized Rensselaer County to permit 12 and 13 year old individuals to participate in the new and safe hunting opportunities in accordance with 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 authorized such action within their municipality. Rensselaer County passed such local law as hunting is a valued tradition for many Rensselaer County families, and this new opportunity allowed experienced, licensed adult hunters to introduce the value of hunting to the next generation. Furthermore, teaching young people safe, responsible, and ethical hunting practices ensures a rewarding experience for the youth, while providing quality food to families and contributing to important deer management population control practices. Rensselaer County will participate in such Pilot Program through all current and future extensions thereof.

## Section 2. Pilot Program Authorization

Pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law, ECL 11-0935, Rensselaer 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 current and future extensions thereof.

### **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:

- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter age 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

- Twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters shall be allowed to hunt deer under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter, age 21 years or older with a crossbow during the times when other hunters may use crossbows; and

- 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 over the youth hunter at all times is required; and

- 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

- All licensed twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old hunters shall remain at ground level while hunting with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader and

- 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 old with a firearm or crossbow.

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

A copy of this local law shall be sent to the New York State Department of Conservation as well as the NYS 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 judgment 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 immediately upon filing and publication in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule.

Local Law ADOPTED by the following Roll Call vote:

Ayes: 15

Nays: 2 (Fleming, Zalewski)

Abstain: 0

July 11, 2023

Approved by the County Executive:

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

*10/23/23*



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Steven F. McLaughlin  
County Executive