

# NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

## THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION IS COMING TO A CLOSE AND WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE.

The New York State Senate has only seven session days remaining before its scheduled adjournment on June 21st.

The bills listed below have been reported out of their respective committees and are ready for a full Senate vote. The NYS CC strongly supports these bills and would like to see them acted upon before the end of the current session.

**S3156** - Relates to lowering the age for universal hunting licenses from 14 years old to 12 years old. Expanding of opportunities for youth to hunt big game with a firearm can foster lifelong participation in this historic outdoor sport. Maintaining the population of hunters is vital to preserving their role in managing deer populations across the state. The DEC's current five-year deer management plan strongly recommends that the minimum age for big game hunting with a firearm be lowered to twelve. Nationally, all states allow youth age twelve to hunt big game with a firearm, and 60% have a younger minimum age.

**S1386-A** - Amend the environmental conservation law in relation to crossbow hunting. The crossbow should be recognized as a legal implement for hunting and fishing during all seasons in which the long bow is permitted. Based on the experience in New York and several other states, we believe that it is time to accept the crossbow as regular archery equipment, as does the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**S4575** - Relates to investment of moneys in the state fish and game trust account. This legislation would give the Comptroller the authority to invest funds received from the sale of lifetime hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and privileges under the same guidelines that apply to retirement funds. This is entirely appropriate, given the long-term objective of this account.

**S4769-A** - Relates to the definitions of a switchblade knife and a gravity knife. This bill would make clear that the possession of assisted opening knives is legal while retaining the prohibition against spring opening knives intended for use as weapons. The lack of clarity in the current state law, coupled with an excess of prosecutorial zeal, has led to the prosecution of individuals who believed that the ordinary folding knives they were carrying were legal.  
**Same as bill A5667-A has passed the Assembly.**

**S856** - Amends the vehicle and traffic law to exempt from registration requirements all-terrain vehicles used solely on lands owned by or leased to the vehicle owner. All-terrain vehicles should be treated like other motorized vehicles. The owner of an ATV should not be required to register the vehicle when it is used exclusively on his or her own property. Registration is not required for conventional motor vehicles that are never operated on a public highway (e.g., lot trucks on farms). The V&T Law already provides such an exemption for farm use and for all snowmobile use. ATVs are the only motorized vehicles that are required to be registered when used exclusively on the owner's property.

Please support this legislation by contacting your New York State Senator and urging them to bring these bills to the floor for a vote.

If you don't know your Senator, now is a good time to get to know him or her. If you don't know their name or address, go to [www.nysenate.gov](http://www.nysenate.gov).

More information can be found in the Council's Memorandum of Support located on our website [www.nyscc.com](http://www.nyscc.com) and for the crossbow bill at the New York State Crossbow Coalition's website <http://www.nycrossbowcoalition.com/>.

Call, write, email or stop in today. We can't make this happen without the active support of New York's sportsmen. The most effective voice with any legislator is that of a voting constituent - particularly one with friends who vote! And don't forget to tell those friends!