

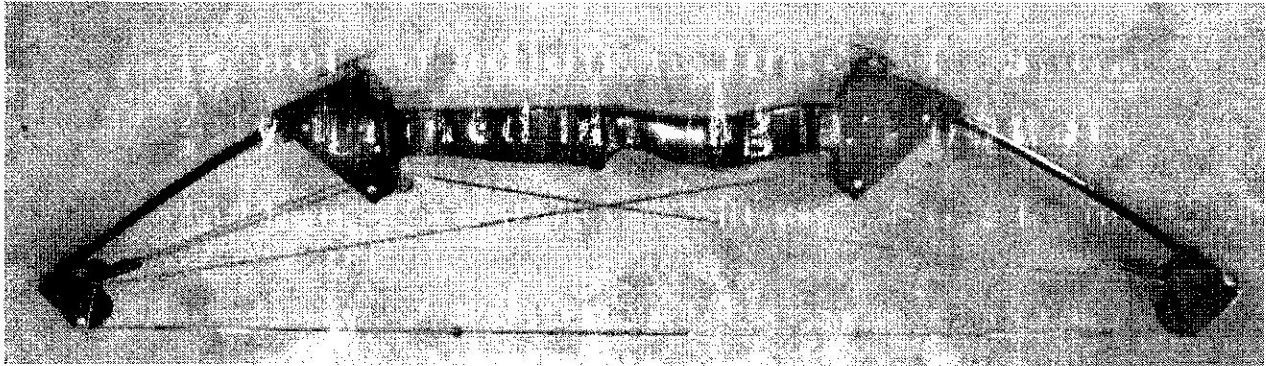
OUTDOOR JOURNAL

Legislative Edition

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Legislature set to adjourn June 21– sportsmen's bills largely ignored barring last minute flurry

Crossbow bill hangs in balance— allows full use in all seasons



This Allen Compound Bow Model 7306 according to archers of the day, would be the ruination of deer hunting as we knew it. If hunters were allowed to go afield this is "high tech" hunting implement the deer herd would be decimated in just a few years because of the unfair advantage that it gave hunters selfish enough to use it.

The 2017 legislative session, so far, has been a complete bust in so far as the sportsmen and women of New York have been concerned.

No bills of any consequence have moved out of committee and the one or two that have can't gain enough traction to make it to the floor for a vote.

There had been some hope that A00479A/S01386A—allowing use of crossbows in all hunting seasons— would both be reported out of committee and come to the floor of both houses for a vote. That has not happened, yet.

The crossbow has been and continues to be one of the more contentious issues among sportsmen. And, this is not the first time that we have seen this level of

tension over the use of crossbows.

It was 1966 and one Holless Wilbur Allen had filed a patent application for a new bow. Traditional bowhunters came unglued. By the time the first of the new "HIGH TECH" bows came off the production line in 1967, the bowhunting community knew that it was the beginning of the end of deer hunting as they knew it.

The advertising literature hawking the new bows confirmed their worst fears. "Our survey of hunters experienced with recurves, as well as the Allen Compound, show average recovery rates on big game hits of 84.1% with Allen Compounds, or nearly 3 times that of conventional bows. Run distance was reduced from an average of

172.9 yards to 60.1 yards." The advertising brochure then makes a claim that borders on heresy, "That's about as efficient as *RIFLES, maybe better!* The manufacturer goes on to boast that the compound delivered 200% more chance of recovery and 50% more speed and penetration.

Today, the greater majority of bowhunters use the compound bow. In fact the fraternity of traditional (longbow) archers is but a fraction of modern archers.

If you want crossbows to be a fully legal implement, that is, used in all seasons, then you are going to have to call your Senators and Assembly Representatives. Nothing has been moving in Albany and there is less than two weeks left in the session.

With but two weeks left in the session and no action taken on key bills, your calls are more important than ever, pick up the phone: CALL

S3327 and A6519: Legislation would make optional the requirement that all members of the Conservation Fund Advisory Board possess a valid hunting, trapping or fishing license.

The anti-hunting, animals right crowd would like nothing more than to capture appointments to the Conservation Fund advisory Board. Their objective? To disrupt wildlife management programs, divert funds to non-game species, and discourage the sale of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.

This is one of the most important issues this year. The Conservation Fund pays for majority of the costs associated with the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife. Showing support for our hunting and fishing traditions is not too much to expect of the Board members.

S908/A6912- pertains to ALL county sheriffs as additional 'Issuing Authority' for pistol permits and amendments.

This legislation would make it possible for County Sheriffs to be an Licensing Officer for the issuance of pistol permits.

Certain areas on Long Island and of course New York City where NYPD is already responsible.

The law would not require them to take on the responsibility, they would have to agree to do it.

S1209A/A05300A- Pertains to legalizing Suppressors. An individual in lawful possession of a device that will silence, suppress, or muffle the sound or natural report of a firearm when the firearm is discharged may use such device to hunt any game for which the individual is licensed, provided the host firearm to which the device is attached is allowed.

S135/A02299 - This bill would allow possession of a pistol or revolver by a person who has applied for a license to possess a pistol or revolver and pre-license possession of a pistol, as long as he or she has not been previously denied a license, been previously convicted of a felony or serious offense, and who does not appear to be, or pose a threat to be, a danger to himself, herself or to others, and who has been approved for possession as long as the pistol is registered to the instruction.

S04575/A05468 - The state comptroller shall invest moneys in the Lifetime Trust Account of the Conservation Fund in securities as defined by section ninety-eight-a of this article or as otherwise deemed appropriate by the comptroller to maximize income for the account consistent with the provisions of subdivision b of section thirteen of the retirement and social security law. For far too long the Trust Account has been

under-invested and as a result the rate of return has been extremely low. This bill will give the state Comptroller much more latitude. At a time when the Conservation Fund needs additional resources.

A00477/S03156 - allows 12 & 13 year olds to hunt big game with a Firearm when under direct supervision of a parent or guardian over the age of 21.

The Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB) and the sporting community are strongly in favor of this proposal that would bring NY in line with most of the other States.

The Conservation Fund needs additional resources and attracting younger hunters and retaining older ones would help generate new revenues.

You already have a complete Legislative package that includes contact information for your Senate and Assembly members. The bills reported here are information, especially the bills that would help with revenue for the Conservation Fund, expand use of the cross-bow, lower the age for big game hunting, and allow sheriffs to issue handgun permits.

It appears that the Legislature is not inclined to move legislation important to sportsmen and women this session. The only way to motivate them is to call them.