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JAN 03 2011



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**RICHARD ALLOWAY, II**  
SENATOR

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**TO:** All Senators

**FROM:** Senator Richard Alloway *Rich*

**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship Memo – Expansion of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program

**DATE:** December 29, 2010

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to expand the Mentored Youth Hunting Program to allow the transfer of one antlerless tag between a licensed hunter and a mentored youth.

In 2006, the Game Commission implemented the Mentored Youth Hunting Program, as a means of introducing and encouraging those younger than 12 years of age to take part in hunting.

Under the program, a mentor is defined as a properly licensed individual at least 21 years of age, who will serve as a guide to a youth while engaged in hunting or related activities, such as scouting, learning firearm or hunter safety and wildlife identification. A mentored youth would be defined as an unlicensed individual less than 12 years of age who is accompanied by a mentor while engaged in hunting or related activities.

The regulations require that the mentor-to-mentored youth ratio be one-to-one, and that the pair possesses only one sporting arm when hunting. While moving, the sporting arm must be carried by the mentor. When the pair reaches a stationary hunting location, the mentor may turn over possession of the sporting arm to the youth and must keep the youth within arm's length at all times.

The species identified as legal game within the Youth Mentored Hunting Program are squirrels, woodchucks (groundhogs), spring gobbler, antlered deer, and coyotes.

Currently the mentored youth cannot harvest antlerless deer. This legislation will open doe hunting to the program and allow the transfer of one antlerless tag between a licensed hunter and a mentored youth.

By allowing the transfer of an antlerless tag, additional opportunities will be created for the youth hunter.

Previous sponsor of this legislation include: Alloway, Kasunic, Boscola, Erickson, O'pake, Rafferty, Gordner, D. White, Wozniak, Baker, Waugh, Ori, Ya, Brubaker, Earll, Pileggi, Mensch and Ward.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Melissa Knepper at [mknepper@pasen.gov](mailto:mknepper@pasen.gov) or by phone at 772-2929.