



**County
Health Officials
of New York**
Leading the way to healthier communities

SUPPORTS

A.8736/S6963 (Skoufis/Larkin)

**AN ACT to amend the public health law and the environmental conservation law,
in relation to allowing donate life registration when applying for or renewing
a hunting, fishing or trapping license**

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) supports the above-referenced legislation, which would expand opportunities for individuals to register as organ donors, by allowing registration when applying or renewing a hunting, fishing or trapping license.

According to the New York State Department of Health, over 10,000 people in New York State are in need of, and waiting for, an organ. Close to 500 New Yorkers die each year awaiting a needed organ donation. A single organ donor can save up to eight lives. An additional seventy-five individuals can be helped through tissue and cornea donation.

Unfortunately, New York State currently ranks 49th among states in their percent of population who are registered organ donors, making up just 10% of registered donors nationwide. Over 10,000 people in New York State are waiting for a life-saving organ donation, with someone in need of an organ donation dying every 18 hours. Despite these grim statistics, 83% of New Yorkers support organ donation.

According to a 2015 report by the New York State comptroller, close to 2 million New Yorkers annually engage in hunting or fishing. While driver's licenses require renewal every eight years, most individuals engaged in hunting, fishing, or trapping activities opt for annual license renewals. This will increase access and opportunity for New Yorkers to enroll in the NYS Donate Life registry.

This legislation has the potential to increase opportunities to save lives. For these reasons, NYSACHO supports this legislation and recommends it be enacted into law.

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