



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • www.QDMA.com

Date: 7 February 2019
To: Assembly Racing and Wagering Committee
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: Assembly Bill 1413

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 1413 which would prohibit using firearms as prizes in games of chance. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide, and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

Hunters play an important role in New York's societal and economic well-being. Hunters provide a free ecological service to society by managing deer and other wildlife populations and provide more than \$1 billion annually to New York's economy. Paramount to sustaining New York's abundant natural resources and hunting heritage is the wise management of wildlife populations and hunting opportunities and adequate funding.

Many hunters in New York belong to sportsmen's conservation organizations, and these organizations raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for wildlife conservation in New York. These include national organizations like QDMA, as well as local rod and gun clubs. Their mission statements may differ, but all raise funds for wildlife and habitat management in New York, and all do so using firearms as prizes at banquets, dinners, and weekend events. A background check is required for all of these prizes to be awarded to the winners so they are not going to minors, convicted felons, or anyone else who cannot pass the background check.

Assembly Bill 1413 would negatively impact New York's natural resources and outdoor heritage, while providing no benefit to keeping firearms out of the hands of folks who cannot legally own them. For these reasons the QDMA encourages you to oppose Assembly Bill 1413. Thank you for your time and your commitment to New York's natural resources.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation