

**SB0181/983529/1**

BY: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 181  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 5, after “circumstances;” insert “establishing a certain penalty for a first violation of this Act, subject to a certain termination date;”; after line 11, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article - Natural Resources  
Section 10-408(e)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)  
(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)”;

and after line 12, insert:

“WHEREAS, The 1991 federal ban on the use of lead ammunition in waterfowl hunting is considered one of the greatest conservation and animal welfare achievements in wildlife management in the last century; and

WHEREAS, The federal ban on the use of lead ammunition in waterfowl hunting saves over 1.4 million ducks annually from lead poisoning, enabling larger fall flights of ducks and geese, and increasing opportunities for hunters; and”;

and strike in their entirety lines 18 through 20, inclusive, and substitute:

“WHEREAS, Peer-reviewed studies have proven that there is a direct connection between the use of lead ammunition and an increase in health, neurological, emotional, and intellectual deficiencies in humans; and”.

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On page 2, strike beginning with “and” in line 6 down through “ammunition;” in line 8.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, in line 15, strike “2029” and substitute “2030”; in line 17, after “(2)” insert “(1)”; in line 20, strike “WEAPON” and substitute “FIREARM”; after line 20, insert:

**“(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AUTHORIZE THE USE OF LEAD AMMUNITION BY AN INDIVIDUAL HUNTING DEER UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2031.”;**

in line 21, after “(3)” insert “A PERSON WHO VIOLATES REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRING THE USE OF NONLEAD AMMUNITION FOR HUNTING FOR A FIRST OFFENSE IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$750.”

**(4)**;

and after line 22, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Natural Resources**

10–408.

(e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, on or before July 1, 2030, the Department shall require the use of nonlead ammunition for the hunting of all game species.

(2) (i) The Department shall authorize the use of lead ammunition for muzzleloaders, handguns, rifles, and shotguns if nonlead ammunition is not commercially available for the specific firearm.

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(ii) The Department shall authorize the use of lead ammunition by an individual hunting deer under the authority of a deer management permit on or before June 30, 2031.

(3) [A person who violates regulations of the Department requiring the use of nonlead ammunition for hunting for a first offense is subject to a civil fine not exceeding \$750.

(4)] The Department shall adopt regulations to carry out this subsection.”.

On pages 3 and 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 23 on page 3 through line 5 on page 4, inclusive.

On page 4, after line 5, insert:

“SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect January 1, 2031.”;

in line 6, strike “3.” and substitute “4.”; and in the same line, after “That” insert “, except as provided in Section 3 of this Act.”.