

SENATE BILL 983

M2

4lr2144

By: **Senator Lewis Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hunting – Lead and Lead–Based Ammunition – Phase–Out**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a certain
4 process to phase out on or before a certain date the use of lead or lead–based
5 ammunition for hunting; requiring the Department to establish a process to certify
6 ammunition as nonlead ammunition; and generally relating to phasing out the use
7 of lead or lead–based ammunition for hunting.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Natural Resources

10 Section 10–428

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 **10–428.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “NONLEAD AMMUNITION” INCLUDES:**

18 **(1) AMMUNITION IN WHICH THERE IS NO LEAD CONTENT, EXCEPT**
19 **TRACE AMOUNTS OF LEAD; AND**

20 **(2) ANY FEDERALLY APPROVED NONTOXIC SHOTGUN AMMUNITION.**

21 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO PHASE OUT AND, ON OR BEFORE**
2 **DECEMBER 31, 2026, PROHIBIT THE USE OF LEAD OR LEAD-BASED AMMUNITION**
3 **FOR HUNTING;**

4 **(2) ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO CERTIFY AMMUNITION AS NONLEAD**
5 **AMMUNITION; AND**

6 **(3) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

7 **(C) THE PROCESS TO PHASE OUT LEAD OR LEAD-BASED AMMUNITION**
8 **SHALL PRIORITIZE DEER HUNTING.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2024.