

# HB1025- Pesticides - Carbofuran - Collection, Disposal, and Prohibition on Possession or Storage

Sponsor Delegate Jen Terrasa—Environment and Transportation Committee



More than 30 American Bald Eagles have died from ingesting the banned insecticide carbofuran on Maryland's Eastern Shore since 2016.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned the use of all formulae of the pesticide carbofuran, also known as (Furadan®) in December 2009. While carbofuran registration was cancelled for every state, the EPA did not require that remaining stocks be confiscated. Possession remains legal, and illegal use is killing wildlife.

- Eagle poisonings have been investigated by Maryland Natural Resources Police and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement. Authorities say they think old stocks of carbofuran were being used to kill foxes and other mammal predators. Eagles scavenging on the dead animals were also poisoned.<sup>1</sup>
- A single grain of carbofuran can kill a songbird.<sup>2</sup> Carbofuran also represents a hazard to humans as it has been found in Maryland groundwater samples.
- Stored carbofuran is hazardous even on the shelf. Thin paper bags (<3 mil) deteriorate and put domestic animals and farm workers at risk. The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Disposal program states that there is a health risk to owners and the possibility of environmental contamination as a result of pesticides leaking from deteriorating containers.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/farm-pesticide-may-be-behind-maryland-bald-eagle-deaths/85635/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://extoxnet.orst.edu/pips/carbofur.htm>

- The Bald Eagle is protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668a-668c) & the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16USC703-711). Both make it a criminal violation to Take (kill, pursue, shoot, POISON) or, per the MBTA, attempt to take this species, and has been protected by federal law since 1940. COMAR (Title 10) regulations gives the birds Maryland state protected status as well.



This leaking Furadan (carbofuran) bag exhibited deterioration < 3 years after acquisition by an individual who had utilized the material to illegally poison wildlife. It was seized as evidence and subsequently placed in secure Mylar Evidence bags and destroyed as hazardous waste.

- The Continental Congress declared the Bald Eagle as our nation's emblem in 1782. Although removed from the Endangered Species Act (delisted June, 2007), it remains vulnerable to many hazards including illegal poisoning. Bald Eagle populations recovered from near-extinction brought about by the now-banned DDT, but carbofuran still kills them.

**HB1025 would require the Maryland Department of Agriculture along with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to;**

- Eliminate stockpiles of carbofuran in the state.
- Require all quantities of carbofuran to be collected or seized by 2023.
- Ensure all quantities of carbofuran that are collected or seized are destroyed.

**Elimination of the hazard to Maryland's Bald Eagle population from stockpiles of banned carbofuran through proposed legislation will help protect the birds and keep their populations growing.**

**Ask your Maryland Legislator to support this bill.**

**Learn More: <http://bit.ly/2LNO8mQ>**