



**Senate Bill 983**  
**Hunting – Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition – Phase -Out**  
**UNFAVORABLE**

Senate Bill 983 is not unlike the non-toxic legislation passed to help protect the endangered California Condor. Our opposition to Senate Bill 983 should not be construed to stem from a lack of concern for the environment or wildlife. It is based upon practical technical concerns and logistics issues, plus the bill language which places excessive and arbitrary power in the hands of an appointed official.

The provisions in this bill will make it difficult and expensive for many deer hunters in Maryland to continue to hunt deer. The net result will be fewer Maryland citizens hunting deer in Maryland. Hunters are an integral part of the Department of Natural Resources' conservation plan.

The ecology and terrain of Maryland is quite different than that in California. Accordingly, the type of firearms and cartridges used are also different. In Maryland, most deer are taken in heavy brush and timber at ranges under 100 yards. Hunters use short, easy to maneuver firearms chambered for firearms with an effective range of approximately 150 yards.

Two of the most popular cartridges, .30-30 Winchester and .35 Remington have origins dating back to 1895 and 1906 respectively. Due to their geriatric vintage, the designers never envisioned, much less designed them, to utilize the new non-lead projectiles. There are technical limitations involved which limit which projectile can be employed. Consequently, ammunition manufacturers have no incentive to produce non-lead ammunition for these cartridges because the customer's firearms cannot use them. The net result being no market for their product.

From a public policy perspective, empowering an appointed official to ban anything the moment the law becomes effective is unwise.

Until more research has been done on this issue, we must recommend an unfavorable report on SB 983.

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