



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 983

Hunting – Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition – Phase-Out

Date: February 27, 2024

Position: **Support**

To: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

From: Doug Myers
MD Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 983 which phases out the use of lead-based ammunition.

Lead (Pb) is toxic and is banned from gasoline, paints, and various household items in most developed countries. Lead ammunition, however, is still widely used for hunting and shooting, and is now likely the greatest, largely unregulated source of lead that is knowingly discharged into the environment in the USA (Health Risks from Lead-Based Ammunition in the Environment—A Consensus Statement of Scientists [2013](#); U.S. Geological Survey [2013](#)).¹

Scientists across North America and Europe have published consensus statements on the risks to wildlife, the environment and human health from the use of lead ammunition, and the need for its replacement by non-toxic alternatives. Lead has the potential to be bioaccumulated through the food chain to higher concentrations. In fact, the Center for Disease Control affirms that there is no safe level of lead for children².

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 983.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5161761/#CR21>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/faqs/lead-faqs.htm>

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.