

Please find **UNFAVORABLE** HB 741  
Hunting – Nonlead Ammunition, Fox Chasing, and Deer Management

HB741 imposes a costly transition to nonlead ammunition, which is significantly more expensive than traditional lead-based options. Nonlead alternatives, such as copper-based rounds, can cost 2-3 times more than lead-based ammunition. UThis seems to be a "feature" of the bill; a purposeful side affect. Hunters, especially those in rural and lower-income communities, may be priced out of participation.

Hunting license fees and taxes on ammunition and equipment fund a substantial portion of wildlife conservation efforts. By creating financial and regulatory barriers, HB741 could discourage hunting participation, reducing revenue for conservation programs; thus an unintended and perhaps unexplored negative consequence.

While reducing lead contamination is a noble goal, the actual environmental impact of spent hunting ammunition is often localized and minimal when hunting regulations are followed.

Although the bill focuses on hunting, it sets a precedent for government mandates on ammunition types. This could lead to broader restrictions on lead-based ammunition for non-hunting activities, encroaching on Second Amendment rights. It is clearly a first and purposeful step on the slippery slope of broader ammunition restrictions.

House Bill 741 imposes significant economic and practical burdens on Maryland's hunters while offering questionable environmental benefits. By mandating a transition to nonlead ammunition, the bill risks alienating law-abiding hunters, reducing conservation funding, and creating barriers to participation in a cherished outdoor tradition. Instead of imposing mandates, I urge the Committee to explore voluntary education programs and incentives for hunters to adopt nonlead ammunition where feasible, balancing conservation goals with respect for Maryland's hunting community.



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