

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6268

To require the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit the use of lead ammunition on United States Fish and Wildlife Service lands, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. MIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit the use of lead ammunition on United States Fish and Wildlife Service lands, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Lead Endangers Ani-  
5 mals Daily Act of 2025” or the “LEAD Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) In 1991, the United States Fish and Wild-  
2       life Service required the use of nontoxic ammunition  
3       for all waterfowl hunting.

4           (2) Research has shown that the presence of  
5       lead in the environment poses a threat to human  
6       and wildlife health.

7           (3) The Environmental Protection Agency has  
8       determined that lead is toxic to both humans and  
9       animals, and can negatively affect nearly every  
10      organ and system in the human body, including the  
11      heart, bones, intestines, kidneys, and reproductive  
12      and nervous systems. Lead exposure interferes with  
13      the development of the nervous system and is there-  
14      fore particularly toxic to children, causing potentially  
15      permanent learning and behavioral disorders.

16          (4) Lead is a potent neurotoxin, for which no  
17      safe exposure level exists for humans. The use of  
18      lead has been outlawed in and removed from paint,  
19      gasoline, children's toys, and many other items to  
20      protect human health and wildlife.

21          (5) Wildlife, including federally listed threat-  
22      ened and endangered species, is at risk of lead toxi-  
23      cosis through the ingestion of lead ammunition, ei-  
24      ther directly by ingesting lead from spent ballistic  
25      materials while foraging, or indirectly by scavenging

1 carcasses and viscera left by hunters. Lead may also  
2 pollute soil and water around outdoor shooting  
3 ranges.

4 (6) Lead ammunition also endangers human  
5 food supplies. Dairy and beef cattle have developed  
6 lead poisoning after feeding in areas where spent  
7 lead ammunition has accumulated. Spent lead am-  
8 munition can also contaminate crops, vegetation,  
9 and waterways.

10 (7) Humans are at risk of lead toxicosis  
11 through the consumption of game meat harvested  
12 with lead ammunition.

13 (8) Alternatives to lead ammunition are readily  
14 available, and studies have shown that nonlead am-  
15 munition performs just as well as lead-based ammu-  
16 nition.

17 (9) In January 2017, the outgoing Director of  
18 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued  
19 Director's Order 219. In March 2017, the Principal  
20 Deputy Director of the United States Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service repealed this Order.

22 **SEC. 3. NONTOXIC AMMUNITION.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
24 (c), and not later than 1 year after enactment, the Sec-  
25 retary, acting through the Director, shall issue final regu-

1 lations prohibiting the discharge of any firearm using am-  
2 munition other than nonlead ammunition certified under  
3 subsection (b) on all lands and waters under the jurisdic-  
4 tion and control of the United States Fish and Wildlife  
5 Service.

6 (b) CERTIFICATION.—The Director shall, for the pur-  
7 poses of enforcing this section and in consultation with  
8 State and Tribal governments, establish and annually up-  
9 date a list of nonlead ammunition.

10 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under subsection  
11 (a) shall not apply to—

12 (1) a Government official or agent carrying out  
13 a statutory duty unrelated to the management of  
14 wildlife;

15 (2) a State, local, Tribal, or Federal law en-  
16 forcement officer or the agent of such officer when  
17 carrying out a statutory duty; and

18 (3) an active member of the United States mili-  
19 tary when carrying out official duties.

20 (d) PENALTIES.—A person that knowingly violates  
21 subsection (a) may be assessed a civil penalty by the Sec-  
22 retary of no more than \$500 for the first violation. A sec-  
23 ond or subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine  
24 of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$5,000.

25 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) AMMUNITION.—The term “ammunition”  
2 means any bullet, ball, sabot, slug, buckshot, shot,  
3 pellet, or other projectile that is expelled from a fire-  
4 arm through a barrel by force.

5           (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
6 the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife  
7 Service.

8           (3) EXPLOSIVE.—The term “explosive” has the  
9 meaning given such term in section 844 of title 18,  
10 United States Code.

11          (4) FIREARM.—The term “firearm” means any  
12 weapon which expels ammunition by the action of an  
13 explosive or compressed air.

14          (5) NONLEAD AMMUNITION.—The term  
15 “nonlead ammunition” means ammunition in which  
16 there is no lead content, excluding the presence of  
17 trace amounts of lead.

18          (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
19 the Secretary of the Interior.

20          (7) TRACE AMOUNTS.—The term “trace  
21 amounts” means one percent or less by weight of the  
22 total weight of the ammunition.

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