

## CHAPTER 619

(Senate Bill 967)

## AN ACT concerning

## Natural Resources - Use of Lead Shot Ammunition

FOR the purpose of removing ~~adding an exception to~~ the prohibition on the State, the Secretary of Natural Resources, or any agency of the Department of Natural Resources from adopting, enforcing, or requesting the enforcement of any ban on the use or possession of lead shot ammunition while hunting wild waterfowl.

~~BY-repealing~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments.

Article - Natural Resources  
Section 10-604(e)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1985 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, In the January 6, 1986, Federal Register (51 FR 409), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, proposed to prohibit the use of lead shot in certain areas to minimize the threat of lead poisoning to waterfowl and bald eagles; and

WHEREAS, The attention of the Fish and Wildlife Service was focused on the bald eagle poisoning problem in September, 1985 through a Federal Court decision in California that caused the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to require the use of nontoxic shot for waterfowl hunting in certain zones where eagles are known to have been affected by lead poisoning; and

WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, by letter dated January 6, 1986, transmitted the proposed rule to the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as announced in the Federal Register of January 6, 1986, does not intend to open the 1986-87 waterfowl hunting seasons in the areas proposed unless the states involved approve the proposed prohibitions against lead shot; and

WHEREAS, The action of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service results from its authority under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; and