



New York State Conservation Council, Inc.
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The New York State Conservation Council Opposes Bills A5728 and S5058

These bills prohibit the use of lead ammunition in the taking of wildlife on state-owned land and on land contributing surface water to the New York City water supply effective January 1, 2023. The NYSCC membership notes that hunters were the first conservationists, and the Assembly bill is sponsored by an assemblywoman whose past record typically doesn't support the sporting community that hunts, fishes, and traps. Her sponsorships has all the makings of an attack on the hunting privileges of the citizens of New York State, rather than dealing with the perceived issue of pollution.

While our membership understands the issue at hand, thus far this one-sided science behind the alleged adverse effects of the use of lead ammunition for hunting, is just that on sided. The mere fact that the initiation date for this legislation (January 2023) assumes that all alternative measures will be available. The NYS DEC through education measures have promoted the use of lead-free ammo for more than five years and still to date the alternative ammo has not been available in New York State what makes the sponsors of these bills think it will be available by 2023. If you want serious consideration of this lead alternative be sure the resources are available before such a bill is passed and goes into law.

Another serious consideration is availability and cost. In 2020 ammunition manufactures shut down due to the global pandemic and other issues while at the same time we saw an increase of firearm ownership and a significant demand for ammunition. As a result, many suppliers through 2021 were still struggling to keep up with the demand for conventional ammo even after expanding hours, staff, and equipment. Also, upon review of several large ammunition internet companies their cost for the lead-free ammunition is at least twice the price of lead ammo. With all these factors, finding affordable alternative ammunition or any ammunition at all has become a challenge that does not sound like will be solved prior to the January 1, 2023, date proposed. It should also be remembered that in New York State buying ammo over the internet is essentially not an option.

If this bill is passed and these issues are not addressed prior to the January 1, 2023, and lead-free ammo is not readily available in 2023 this will be seen as a victory for those that would like to ban hunting. We will lose hunters who participate in a valid recreational activity, whose effort play a positive role in wildlife management and are part of a sporting community that contribute a 12.2 billion dollar impact the NYS economy. (Source of economic impact from past Governor Cuomo's budget presentation.)

Before these bills come to the Senate and Assembly floors for a vote, The New York State Conservation Council urges its members to call and urge their assembly and senate representatives to actively work against these bills. The NYSCC membership could in the future support "eco-friendly" ammo when it is readily available and affordable and when the overwhelming data says lead free ammo will have a positive impact.