

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: May 10, 2013

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller 
Chief Legislative Analyst
Council File: 13-0002-S43
Assignment No.: 13-03-0233

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz-Zine) to support AB 711 (Rendon), which would ban the use of lead ammunition in California and help prevent lead toxins from poisoning scavengers that feed on the animal remains left by hunters.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution to include in the City's 2013-2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of AB 711 (Rendon), which would ban the use of lead ammunition in California and help prevent lead toxins from poisoning scavengers that feed on the animal remains left by hunters.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Koretz-Zine), introduced March, 27 2013, proposes that the City of Los Angeles support AB 711 (Rendon), which would ban the use of lead ammunition in California and help prevent lead toxins from poisoning scavengers that feed on the animal remains left by hunters. The use of lead ammunition by hunters in California is causing widespread contamination of the environment and leading to the death of various species of wildlife, particularly scavengers that feed on the animal remains left-over from hunting activities. AB 711 (Rendon) would significantly reduce this contamination by restricting the use of lead ammunition.

BACKGROUND

It has been proven that the use of lead ammunition by hunters in California is causing widespread contamination of the environment and leading to the death of various species of wildlife, particularly scavengers that feed on the animal remains left-over from hunting activities. Lead is a powerful neurotoxin and a lingering source of pollution in the environment that has compromised the efforts of various environmental organizations to restore endangered populations of wildlife in California, including condors, bald eagles, golden eagles, and turkey vultures.

Under existing law, the Fish and Game Commission is required to establish by regulation a public process to certify center-fire rifle and pistol ammunition as non-lead ammunition, and to define by regulation non-lead ammunition as including only center-fire rifle and pistol ammunition in which there is no lead content. Existing law requires the commission to establish and annually update a list of certified center-fire rifle and pistol ammunition. Existing law also requires that non-lead ammunition, as determined by the Fish and Game Commission, be used when taking big game such as deer and coyote with a rifle or pistol, and requires the commission

to provide hunters in specified deer-hunting zones with non-lead ammunition at no or reduced charge, to the extent that funding is available.

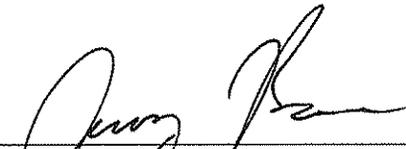
AB 711, introduced by California State Assembly Member Anthony Rendon on February 21, 2013, would revise existing law to require the use of non-lead ammunition for the taking of all wildlife, including game mammals, game birds, nongame birds, and nongame mammals, with any firearm. The bill would require the Fish and Game Commission, by July 1, 2014, to certify, by regulation, non-lead ammunition for these purposes. The bill would make conforming changes and would provide that these provisions do not apply to government officials or their agents when carrying out a mandatory statutory duty required by law. AB 711 (Rendon) has gained widespread support of various environmental groups, including the Defenders of Wildlife, Audubon California, and the Humane Society of the United States.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None

BILL STATUS

02/04/2013	Bill introduced
03/20/2013	Re-referred to Com. on W., P. & W.
04/16/2013	From committee: Do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR.
04/17/2013	Read second time and amended.
04/18/2013	Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
05/09/2013	From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 11. Noes 5.) (May 8).



Jerry Barnes
Analyst

GFM:jb

Attachment: Resolution (Koretz-Zine)