
**Fisheries, Ecology & Parks
Committee**

HB 2099

Brief Description: Prohibiting the use of lead shot.

Sponsors: Representatives Kagi, Jarrett, Romero, O'Brien, Lantz, Cooper and Upthegrove.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Prohibits the Fish and Wildlife Commission from allowing the use of lead shot in the state.

Hearing Date: 3/4/03

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

The Legislature has vested the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) with the authority to adopt, amend, and repeal rules that deal with the equipment and methods that may be used in the state for taking wildlife and fish (RCW 77.12.047). The Commission has exercised this authority to prohibit the use of toxic shot in many of the state's wildlife areas, and when hunting for waterfowl, coot, or snipe (WAC 232-12-068). The use of lead shot to hunt waterfowl was phased out nationally through the late 1980's and early 1990's.

According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), in a report submitted to the Commission in February of 2001, consumption of a small amount of lead shot while feeding can be lethal to waterfowl. Lead shot poisoning can occur directly, by feeding on shot, or indirectly, by feeding on a carcass that died of lead poisoning.

The report prepared by the Department also listed concerns that hunters have about non-lead shot. These included a higher cost, reduced performance, and possible damage to shotgun barrels.

Summary of Bill:

The Commission is prohibited from authorizing the use of lead shot in the state.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.