

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2179

To prohibit the use of M–44 devices, commonly known as “cyanide bombs”,
on public land, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26 (legislative day, JUNE 24), 2025

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE,
Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS)
introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the
Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To prohibit the use of M–44 devices, commonly known as
“cyanide bombs”, on public land, 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 “Canyon’s Law”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Sodium cyanide is the highly toxic pesticide
8 active ingredient used in M–44 devices, also known
9 as “cyanide bombs”, and is used to kill coyotes,

1 foxes, and wild dogs suspected of preying on live-
2 stock and poultry.

3 (2) Sodium cyanide is registered for restricted
4 use under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
5 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.) as a Cat-
6 egory One acute toxicant, the most hazardous Envi-
7 ronmental Protection Agency classification available,
8 due to the harm it poses to people and the environ-
9 ment.

10 (3) Poisoning by sodium cyanide leads to cen-
11 tral nervous system depression, cardiac arrest, res-
12 piratory failure, paralysis, and blindness.

13 (4) The Environmental Protection Agency au-
14 thorizes the use of M-44 devices nationwide, and in
15 recent years, M-44s were used in Colorado, Mon-
16 tana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ne-
17 vada, Oklahoma, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyo-
18 ming.

19 (5) In 2017, an M-44 device exposed an Idaho
20 child to a sublethal dose of sodium cyanide with sub-
21 sequent short-term and long-term medical complica-
22 tions. Two Wyoming children were also exposed to
23 the poison from another M-44 device. Three family
24 dogs died in these two separate incidents. More than
25 50 family dogs have been documented as killed by

1 M-44 devices since 1990. The full count is esti-
2 mated to be significantly higher.

3 (6) The indiscriminate M-44 device commonly
4 harms nontarget wildlife and people; at least 42 peo-
5 ple have accidentally triggered a cyanide bomb caus-
6 ing exposure to cyanide gas and injuries since 1984.
7 A Utah man, who was poisoned by an M-44 device
8 in 2003 and permanently disabled, died in 2018 with
9 cyanide poisoning from exposure to an M-44 device
10 listed as a contributing cause of death on his death
11 certificate.

12 (7) M-44 devices kill targeted animals only 53
13 percent of the time. Thousands of nontarget species
14 of animals have been killed by M-44s, including bald
15 eagles, golden eagles, gray wolves, black bears, griz-
16 zly bears, bobcats, fishers, and family dogs.

17 (8) Despite the United States Fish and Wildlife
18 Service determining in 1993 that M-44 devices
19 could kill endangered species like the California Con-
20 dor, the use of the M-44 continues in areas where
21 endangered species are found and continues to result
22 in the deaths of endangered species.

1 **SEC. 3. USE OF M-44 DEVICES ON PUBLIC LAND PROHIB-**
2 **ITED.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Preparing, placing, installing, set-
4 ting, deploying, or otherwise using an M-44 device on
5 public land is prohibited.

6 (b) REMOVAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act, any Federal, State, or county
8 agency that has prepared, placed, installed, set, or de-
9 ployed an M-44 device on public land shall remove each
10 such M-44 device from public land.

11 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

12 (1) M-44 DEVICE.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “M-44 de-
14 vice” means a device designed to propel sodium
15 cyanide when triggered by an animal.

16 (B) COMMON NAMES.—The term “M-44
17 device” includes any device that may be com-
18 monly known as an “M-44 ejector device” or
19 an “M-44 predator control device”.

20 (2) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land”
21 means any Federal land under the administrative ju-
22 risdiction of a public land management agency.

23 (3) PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The
24 term “public land management agency” means each
25 of, or a combination of, the following:

26 (A) The National Park Service.

1 (B) The United States Fish and Wildlife
2 Service.

3 (C) The Bureau of Land Management.

4 (D) The Bureau of Reclamation.

5 (E) The Forest Service.

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