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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1697**

Offered January 13, 2025

Prefiled January 4, 2025

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-314 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 28.2-315 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fishing with trawl nets and drag nets; shrimp and horseshoe crab; license fee; penalty.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patron—Askew

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Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 28.2-314 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 28.2-314. Trawl nets and drag nets prohibited; exception; license fee; penalty.**

~~Except as may be provided in § 28.2-315, it~~ *A. It is unlawful for any person (i) to take or catch fish, shellfish, or marine organisms with a trawl net, drag net, or similar device drawn through the waters by a vessel, boat, or other craft or (ii) to buy, sell, or offer for sale any fish taken or caught in the waters of the Commonwealth, or under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, with a trawl net, drag net, or similar device. However, the Commission may issue licenses or permits to take or catch fish, shellfish, or marine organisms with a trawl net, drag net, or similar device within the three-mile limit of the Virginia Atlantic shoreline for the shrimp and horseshoe crab fisheries.*

*B. The license or permit fee to fish with a trawl net, drag net, or similar device pursuant to subsection A shall be \$100 or as subsequently revised by the Commission pursuant to § 28.2-201 for each boat so employed.*

*C. A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

**2. That § 28.2-315 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.**

INTRODUCED

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