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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 291**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 9, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 29.1-508.2, relating to Department of*  
5 *Wildlife Resources; fishing tackle recycling and disposal; educational webpage; report.*

6 Patron—Anderson

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 29.1-508.2 as follows:**10 **§ 29.1-508.2. Fishing tackle recycling and disposal; educational webpage; report.**11 *A. For the purposes of this section, "fishing tackle" means any recreational fishing equipment used to take*  
12 *fish in the inland waters of the Commonwealth and includes fishing line, hooks, floats, lures, or other similar*  
13 *equipment.*14 *B. The Department shall (i) develop, publish, and maintain a dedicated webpage on its website to educate*  
15 *the recreational fishing community and the general public about the importance of responsible recycling and*  
16 *disposal of fishing tackle and (ii) periodically update such webpage to ensure that educational materials are*  
17 *current, relevant, and effective in promoting responsible fishing practices. Such webpage shall include:*18 *1. Clear instructions for fishermen on how to properly remove and dispose of fishing tackle when leaving*  
19 *a fishing area;*20 *2. Educational materials outlining the dangers posed to wildlife when fishing tackle is improperly*  
21 *discarded;*22 *3. Visual aids, including photographs and infographics depicting the negative impacts on waterfowl and*  
23 *other wildlife caused by discarded fishing tackle; and*24 *4. Resources for local recycling programs or designated disposal sites for spent fishing line and other*  
25 *fishing tackle.*26 *C. The Department shall, beginning in 2027 and every three years thereafter, conduct an evaluation of the*  
27 *effectiveness of the educational webpage required in subsection B and any other Department outreach or*  
28 *community engagement initiatives related to the responsible recycling and disposal of fishing tackle and*  
29 *submit a report summarizing such evaluation to the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture,*  
30 *Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural*  
31 *Resources by December 1 of such year.*32 **2. The Department of Wildlife Resources shall publish a dedicated educational webpage on its website**  
33 **to educate the recreational fishing community and the general public about the importance of**  
34 **responsible recycling and disposal of fishing tackle pursuant to § 29.1-508.2 of the Code of Virginia, as**  
35 **created by this act, no later than January 1, 2027.**

INTRODUCED

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