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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1048**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 28.2-401.1, relating to Marine*
5 *Resources Commission; menhaden reduction fishing in the Chesapeake Bay prohibited.*

6 Patron—Carr

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 28.2-401.1 as follows:**10 **§ 28.2-401.1. Menhaden reduction fishing in the Chesapeake Bay prohibited.**11 *Notwithstanding any exception provided in § 28.2-409 or any other provision of law, the Commission*
12 *shall prohibit all fishing for the purse seine menhaden reduction sector in the Chesapeake Bay and its*
13 *tributaries.*14 **2. That the provisions of this act shall expire upon the determination by the Secretary of Natural and**
15 **Historic Resources that research specific to the Chesapeake Bay has demonstrated that the menhaden**
16 **reduction fishery does not negatively impact other fisheries or menhaden-dependent species. The**
17 **Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources shall certify in writing to the Virginia Code Commission**
18 **that such contingency has been met.**

INTRODUCED

HB1048