

26102612D

SENATE BILL NO. 471

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 13, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 29.1-300.1, 29.1-301, 29.1-302.1, 29.1-408, and 46.2-889 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 29.1-302.5 and 29.1-516.3, relating to releasing of hunting dogs; state or local roadway; hunting, fishing, and trapping special license; penalty.

Patron—Marsden

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 29.1-300.1, 29.1-301, 29.1-302.1, 29.1-408, and 46.2-889 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 29.1-302.5 and 29.1-516.3 as follows:

§ 29.1-300.1. Certification of competence in hunter education; incentives.

A. Except as provided in subsection B and §§ 29.1-300.4, 29.1-302.5, and 29.1-305.2, no hunting license shall be issued to (i) a person who has never obtained a license to hunt in any state or country, or (ii) a person who is under the age of 16, unless such a person presents to the Board or one of its authorized license vendors, a certificate of completion in hunter education issued or authorized by the Board under the hunter education program, or proof that he holds the equivalent certificate obtained from an authorized agency or association of another state or country.

B. Although a resident under the age of 12 is not required to obtain a license to hunt, any person under the age of 12, or an individual on his behalf, may purchase a Virginia hunting license or a junior lifetime hunting license pursuant to § 29.1-302.1, without completing a hunter education program as required in subsection A, provided that no person under the age of 12 shall hunt unless accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has, on his person, a valid Virginia hunting license. The junior lifetime hunting license issued to an individual under the age of 12 shall become invalid on the individual's twelfth birthday and remain invalid until certification of competence in hunter education is shown as provided in this section. A lifetime license, indicating the completion of hunter education or an equivalent certificate, shall be reissued at no cost when such proof is provided.

The adult shall be responsible for such supervision. For the purposes of this section, "adult" means the parent or legal guardian of the person under age 12, or such person over the age of 18 designated by the parent or legal guardian.

"Accompanied and directly supervised" means that the adult is within sight of the person under the age of 12.

C. This section shall not apply to persons while on horseback hunting foxes with hounds but without firearms.

D. The Board may adopt regulations that provide incentives for successful completion of a hunter education course to hunters who are not required by law to complete such a course. The regulations may include such incentives as the Board deems appropriate.

§ 29.1-301. Exemptions from license requirements.

A. No license shall be required of landowners, their spouses, their children and grandchildren and the spouses of such children and grandchildren, or the landowner's parents, resident or nonresident, to hunt, trap and fish within the boundaries of their own lands and inland waters or while within such boundaries or upon any private permanent extension therefrom, to fish in any abutting public waters.

B. No license shall be required of any stockholder owning 50 percent or more of the stock of any domestic corporation owning land in this Commonwealth, his or her spouse and children and minor grandchildren, resident or nonresident, to hunt, trap and fish within the boundaries of lands and inland waters owned by the domestic corporation.

C. No license shall be required of bona fide tenants, renters or lessees to hunt, trap or fish within the boundaries of the lands or waters on which they reside or while within such boundaries or upon any private permanent extension therefrom, to fish in any abutting public waters if such individuals have the written consent of the landlord upon their person. A guest of the owner of a private fish pond shall not be required to have a fishing license to fish in such pond.

D. No license shall be required of resident or nonresident persons under 16 years of age to fish.

~~D.~~ B. No license shall be required of resident persons under 12 years of age to hunt, provided such person is accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has, on his person, a valid Virginia hunting

59 license as described in subsection B of § 29.1-300.1.

60 ~~E.~~ C. No license shall be required of a resident person 65 years of age or over to hunt or trap on private  
61 property in the county or city in which he resides. An annual license at a fee of \$1 shall be required of a  
62 resident person 65 years of age or older to fish in any inland waters of the Commonwealth, which shall be in  
63 addition to a license to fish for trout as specified in subsection B of § 29.1-310 or a special lifetime trout  
64 fishing license as specified in § 29.1-302.4. A resident 65 years of age or older may, upon proof of age  
65 satisfactory to the Department and the payment of a \$1 fee, apply for and receive from any authorized agent  
66 of the Department a nontransferable annual license permitting such person to hunt or an annual license  
67 permitting such person to trap in all cities and counties of the Commonwealth. Any lifetime license issued  
68 pursuant to this article prior to July 1, 1988, shall remain valid for the lifetime of the person to whom it was  
69 issued. Any license issued pursuant to this section includes any damage stamp required pursuant to Article 3  
70 (§ 29.1-352 et seq.) of this chapter.

71 ~~F.~~ D. No license to fish shall be required of nonresident persons under 16 years of age when accompanied  
72 by a person possessing a valid license to fish in Virginia.

73 ~~G.~~ E. No license shall be required to trap rabbits with box traps.

74 ~~H.~~ F. No license shall be required of resident persons under 16 years of age to trap when accompanied by  
75 any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid state license to trap in this Commonwealth.

76 ~~I.~~ G. No license to hunt, trap, or fish shall be required of any Indian who habitually resides on an Indian  
77 reservation or of a member of the Virginia recognized tribes who resides in the Commonwealth; however,  
78 such Indian must have on his person an identification card or paper signed by the chief of his tribe, a valid  
79 tribal identification card, written confirmation through a central tribal registry, or certification from a tribal  
80 office. Such card, paper, confirmation, or certification shall set forth that the person named is an actual  
81 resident upon such reservation or member of the recognized tribes in the Commonwealth, and such card,  
82 paper, confirmation or certification shall create a presumption of residence, which may be rebutted by proof  
83 of actual residence elsewhere.

84 ~~J.~~ H. No license to fish shall be required of legally blind persons.

85 ~~K.~~ I. No fishing license shall be required in any inland waters of the Commonwealth on free fishing days.  
86 The Board shall designate no more than three free fishing days in any calendar year. In the event that a free  
87 day is canceled as a result of an inclement weather event, the Board may designate another free fishing day in  
88 its place.

89 ~~L.~~ J. No license to fish, except for trout as provided in § 29.1-302.4 or subsection B of § 29.1-310, in  
90 Laurel Lake and Beaver Pond at Breaks Interstate Park shall be required of a resident of the State of  
91 Kentucky who (i) possesses a valid license to fish in Kentucky or (ii) is exempt under Kentucky law from the  
92 requirement of possessing a valid fishing license.

93 ~~M.~~ K. No license to fish, except for trout as provided in subsection B of § 29.1-310, shall be required of a  
94 member of the armed forces of the United States, on active duty, who is a resident of the Commonwealth  
95 while such person is on official leave, provided that person presents a copy of his leave papers upon request.

96 ~~N.~~ L. No license to hunt or fish shall be required of any person who is not hunting or fishing but is aiding  
97 a disabled person to hunt or fish when such disabled person possesses a valid Virginia hunting or fishing  
98 license under § 29.1-302, 29.1-302.1, or 29.1-302.2.

99 **§ 29.1-302.1. Special lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for residents and nonresidents.**

100 A. Any resident or nonresident individual may apply for and receive from the Department, after payment  
101 of the appropriate fee, any of the following lifetime licenses which shall be valid for the life of the individual,  
102 nontransferable, and permit the person to engage in the licensed activity on any property in the  
103 Commonwealth according to restrictions and regulations of law:

104 1. A basic resident lifetime hunting license, to be obtained for a fee of \$250. This license is valid for the  
105 lifetime of the license holder even if the license holder becomes a nonresident of the Commonwealth  
106 subsequent to the purchase of the license.

107 2. A basic resident lifetime fishing license, to be obtained for a fee of \$250. This license is valid for the  
108 lifetime of the license holder even if the license holder becomes a nonresident of the Commonwealth  
109 subsequent to the purchase of the license.

110 3. A basic nonresident lifetime hunting license, to be obtained for a fee of \$500.

111 4. A basic nonresident lifetime fishing license, to be obtained for a fee of \$500.

112 5. A basic senior resident lifetime hunting license and bear, deer, and turkey license, to be obtained for a  
113 fee of \$200. This license is available only to a resident of the Commonwealth who is 80 years of age or older  
114 and shall be valid for the lifetime of the license holder even if the license holder becomes a nonresident of the  
115 Commonwealth subsequent to the purchase of the license. This license shall include any special license  
116 necessary under § 29.1-305 for hunting bear, deer, and turkey.

117 6. A junior resident lifetime hunting license that is valid until an individual's twelfth birthday, and which  
118 is transferable to a resident lifetime hunting license for no additional fee upon proof of completion of a hunter  
119 education course or equivalent, may be obtained for a fee of \$250.

120 7. A junior nonresident lifetime hunting license that is valid until an individual's twelfth birthday, and

121 which is transferable to a nonresident lifetime hunting license for no additional fee upon proof of completion  
122 of a hunter education course or equivalent, may be obtained for a fee of \$500.

123 8. An infant resident lifetime hunting license, to be obtained for a fee of \$125. This license shall be issued  
124 only to an individual who is younger than two years of age and shall be valid to be used as prescribed under  
125 subsection ~~D~~ B of § 29.1-301 until an individual's twelfth birthday. Upon proof of completion of a hunter  
126 education course or equivalent, this license shall be transferable to a resident lifetime hunting license for no  
127 additional fee. This license shall remain valid even if the license holder becomes a nonresident of the  
128 Commonwealth subsequent to the purchase of the license.

129 9. An infant nonresident lifetime hunting license, to be obtained for a fee of \$250. This license shall be  
130 issued only to an individual who is younger than two years of age and shall be valid to be used as prescribed  
131 under subsection ~~D~~ B of § 29.1-301 until an individual's twelfth birthday. Upon proof of completion of a  
132 hunter education course or equivalent, this license shall be transferable to a nonresident lifetime hunting  
133 license for no additional fee. This license shall remain valid even if the license holder becomes a resident of  
134 the Commonwealth subsequent to the purchase of the license.

135 10. An infant resident lifetime fishing license, to be obtained for a fee of \$125. This license shall be issued  
136 only to an individual who is younger than two years of age. This license is valid for the lifetime of the license  
137 holder even if the license holder becomes a nonresident of the Commonwealth subsequent to the purchase of  
138 the license.

139 11. An infant nonresident lifetime fishing license, to be obtained for a fee of \$250. This license shall be  
140 issued only to an individual who is younger than two years of age. This license is valid for the lifetime of the  
141 license holder even if the license holder becomes a resident of the Commonwealth subsequent to the purchase  
142 of the license.

143 Such basic lifetime hunting licenses shall serve in lieu of the state resident hunting license as provided for  
144 in subdivision 2 of § 29.1-303, or state nonresident hunting license as provided for in subdivision 3 of  
145 § 29.1-303. Such basic lifetime fishing licenses shall serve in lieu of the state resident fishing license as  
146 provided for in subdivision A 2 of § 29.1-310 or state nonresident fishing license as provided for in  
147 subdivision A 3 of § 29.1-310.

148 B. Applications for all lifetime hunting and fishing licenses authorized by this section shall be made to the  
149 Department. The form and issuance of such a license shall conform to the provisions of this chapter for all  
150 licenses.

151 Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, all money credited to, held by, or to be received by the  
152 Department from the sale of licenses authorized by this section shall be consolidated and placed in the  
153 Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Endowment Fund established in § 29.1-101.1.

154 C. Any resident who is permanently disabled, as defined in § 58.1-3217, who applies for either of the  
155 resident lifetime licenses authorized by this section shall receive such a license for a fee of \$5. The applicant  
156 shall provide proof of permanent disability acceptable to the Director of the Department.

157 D. Any resident 45 years of age or older who applies for either of the resident lifetime licenses authorized  
158 by subdivision A 1 or A 2 shall receive such a license for one of the following fees based on age: age 45  
159 through 50, \$200; age 51 through 55, \$150; age 56 through 60, \$100; age 61 through 64, \$50; and age 65 or  
160 older, \$10.

161 E. The Board may subsequently revise the cost of licenses set forth in this section pursuant to § 29.1-103.

162 **§ 29.1-302.5. Special license for landowners and certain people.**

163 *There shall be a special annual license to hunt, fish, and trap exclusively on a landowner's property in*  
164 *lieu of the licenses required pursuant to §§ 29.1-303, 29.1-305, 29.1-306, 29.1-307, 29.1-309, and 29.1-310.*  
165 *The fee for such special license shall be \$3 or the amount subsequently revised by the Board pursuant to*  
166 *§ 29.1-103. Any of the following persons may apply to the Department for the special license authorized by*  
167 *this section, which shall be valid on the specified lands:*

168 1. *Landowners, their spouses, parents, children, and grandchildren, and the spouses of such children and*  
169 *grandchildren, to hunt, trap, and fish within the boundaries of their own lands and inland waters or while*  
170 *within such boundaries or upon any private permanent extension therefrom, to fish in any abutting public*  
171 *waters;*

172 2. *Stockholders owning 50 percent or more of the stock of any domestic corporation owning land in the*  
173 *Commonwealth, their spouse, children, and minor grandchildren, resident or nonresident, to hunt, trap, and*  
174 *fish within the boundaries of lands and inland waters owned by the domestic corporation;*

175 3. *Bona fide tenants, renters, or lessees to hunt, trap, and fish within the boundaries of the lands or inland*  
176 *waters on which they reside or while within such boundaries or upon any private permanent extension*  
177 *therefrom, to fish in any abutting public waters if such individuals have the written consent of the landlord*  
178 *upon their person; and*

179 4. *Guests of the owner of a private fish pond to fish in such pond.*

180 **§ 29.1-408. Permit required; exceptions.**

181 No person shall hunt, fish, or trap on any lands in the national forests in this Commonwealth without first  
182 obtaining, in addition to the regular resident or nonresident license, a special permit to hunt, fish, or trap on

183 such areas in the national forests as the Board and the Forest Service may agree upon. However, no such  
184 permit shall be required of (i) residents under the age of 16 to fish or trap; (ii) residents over the age of 65 to  
185 fish; (iii) nonresidents under the age of 16 to fish when accompanied by a person possessing a valid license to  
186 fish therein; (iv) residents possessing a license as provided by subsection E C of § 29.1-301; and (v) persons  
187 holding a license as provided by § 29.1-339.

188 The violation of any of the terms of this article shall constitute a Class 3 misdemeanor.

189 **§ 29.1-516.3. Release of hunting dogs on state or local roadways; penalty.**

190 *A. Any person who releases hunting dogs on or within 15 feet of the edge of a roadway owned or*  
191 *maintained by the Department of Transportation or a locality is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. A second or*  
192 *subsequent violation of this subsection is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any person convicted of a violation of this*  
193 *subsection may be prohibited by the court from hunting, trapping, or fishing in the Commonwealth for a*  
194 *period of up to five years.*

195 *B. Proof of a violation of this section may be evidenced by information obtained from photographs or*  
196 *other recorded images. A certificate, or a facsimile thereof, sworn to or affirmed by a law-enforcement*  
197 *officer or a retired sworn law-enforcement officer, based upon inspection of such photographs or other*  
198 *recorded images taken by any person, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein.*

199 **§ 46.2-889. Location of parked vehicles.**

200 No vehicle shall be stopped except close to and parallel to the right edge of the curb or roadway, except  
201 that a vehicle may be stopped close to and parallel to the left curb or edge of the roadway on one-way streets  
202 or may be parked at an angle where permitted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Department,  
203 or local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction.

204 *Nothing in this section shall prevent the retrieval of a companion animal, as that term is defined in*  
205 *§ 3.2-6500, from a highway or area adjacent to a highway.*