

26105207D

SENATE BILL NO. 707

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 14, 2026

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 3.2-6570.2 and 54.1-3812.2, relating to devocalization of dogs; penalty.

Patron—Diggs

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 3.2-6570.2 and 54.1-3812.2 as follows:

§ 3.2-6570.2. Devocalization of dogs; penalty.

A. It is unlawful for any person to perform or cause to be performed a surgical devocalization procedure on a dog except when (i) training or electronic barking control devices such as electronic collars have proven ineffective for such dog's excessive barking and (ii) it would be necessary for such dog to be rehomed due to its excessive barking.

B. Any person who performs or causes to be performed a surgical devocalization on a dog in violation of this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The second or any subsequent conviction for violating this section during a 36-month period is a Class 6 felony.

§ 54.1-3812.2. Records of devocalization procedures; audit.

Any licensed veterinarian who performs a surgical devocalization on a dog shall keep a record of such procedure for a period of four years, as prescribed by the Board. Such records shall be subject to audit by the Board.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 725 of the Acts of Assembly of 2025 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

INTRODUCED

SB707