

## HOUSE BILL NO. 291

## AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources  
on \_\_\_\_\_)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Anderson)

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

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 29.1-508.2 as follows:**

**§ 29.1-508.2. Fishing tackle recycling and disposal; educational webpage; report.**

*A. For the purposes of this section, "fishing tackle" means any recreational fishing equipment used to take  
fish in the inland waters of the Commonwealth and includes fishing line, hooks, floats, lures, or other similar  
equipment.*

*B. The Department shall (i) develop, publish, and maintain a dedicated webpage on its website to educate  
the recreational fishing community and the general public about the importance of responsible recycling and  
disposal of fishing tackle and (ii) periodically update such webpage to ensure that educational materials are  
current, relevant, and effective in promoting responsible fishing practices. Such webpage shall include:*

*1. Clear instructions for fishermen on how to properly remove and dispose of fishing tackle when leaving  
a fishing area;*

*2. Educational materials outlining the dangers posed to wildlife when fishing tackle is improperly  
discarded;*

*3. Visual aids, including photographs and infographics depicting the negative impacts on waterfowl and  
other wildlife caused by discarded fishing tackle; and*

*4. Resources for local recycling programs or designated disposal sites for spent fishing line and other  
fishing tackle.*

*C. The Department shall at least every three years update the webpage required in subsection B in  
consultation with relevant state agencies and stakeholders.*

**2. The Department of Wildlife Resources shall publish a dedicated educational webpage on its website  
to educate the recreational fishing community and the general public about the importance of  
responsible recycling and disposal of fishing tackle pursuant to § 29.1-508.2 of the Code of Virginia, as  
created by this act, no later than January 1, 2027.**