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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.

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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