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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1396**

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

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

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Martinez)

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 29.1-516.3, relating to Department of Wildlife Resources; permits; use of dogs in hunting game animals, fur-bearing animals, and nuisance species.*

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 29.1-516.3 as follows:**

**§ 29.1-516.3. Permit required for the use of dogs in hunting game animals, fur-bearing animals, and nuisance species.**

A. *The Department shall establish a permit for persons and a permit for organizations that hunt game animals, fur-bearing animals, or nuisance species with the aid of dogs. Applications for new and renewed permits shall be on a form prescribed by the Department and shall include a fee of \$19. The Department shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including (i) permit issuance procedures; (ii) criteria for permit enforcement, revocation, or suspension; (iii) standards for dog identification and marking of vehicles; (iv) conditions under which exemptions to the requirements of this subsection may be granted; (v) the implementation of practices that prevent a hunting dog from entering onto real property on which the permit holder does not have written or verbal permission to hunt; and (vi) penalties for violations of this section.*

B. *Beginning July 1, 2027, it is unlawful for any person to (i) release a dog to hunt, pursue, or chase any game animal, fur-bearing animal, or nuisance species on any tract of real property or (ii) engage in hunting any game animal, fur-bearing animal, or nuisance species with the aid of any dog unless such person has been issued a permit to hunt with dogs by the Department.*

C. *The provisions of subsection B shall not apply to any person or organization (i) engaged in mounted fox hunting; (ii) engaged in hunting waterfowl, migratory birds, or upland game birds; (iii) using a tracking dog to retrieve a wounded or dead bear, turkey, or deer pursuant to § 29.1-516.1; (iv) whose dog remains in the immediate visual presence and control of such person, regardless of the species of animal that is otherwise being lawfully pursued; or (v) on public lands where hunting is allowed.*

D. *Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any activity authorized under § 18.2-136.*

HOUSE  
SUBSTITUTE

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