

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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

4 [H 291]

5 Approved

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

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 29.1-508.2 as follows:**
8 **§ 29.1-508.2. Fishing tackle recycling and disposal; educational webpage; report.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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