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HOUSE BILL NO. 975

House Amendments in [] — February 11, 2002

A BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-712 of the Code of Virginia, relating to identification of crab pots.

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Pollard

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 28.2-712 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 28.2-712. Identification of crab pots and eel pots; penalty.**

On and after January 1, 1993, any person owning or using a crab pot or eel pot, for whom a license is required by this subtitle, shall display and maintain an identification number, issued by the Commissioner, on the float or stake attached to each such crab pot or eel pot, in a legible and visible manner and in figures of not less than one inch in height. The identification of the owner of such crab pot or eel pot by the number above described shall not result in liability on its owner for its location so long as the crab pot or eel pot is placed in the waters of this Commonwealth in compliance with Virginia law. [*The Effective April 1, 2003, the*] Commission shall implement, by regulation, a crab pot tagging program to facilitate the enforcement and identification of crab pot licenses obtained pursuant to this subtitle. Such regulations shall require (i) that all crab pot floats or stakes be marked with a tag that clearly states individual identification of such crab pot by sequential number or some other identification scheme established by regulation, and (ii) that all crab pot tags specify the placement, size, color and other information as required by such regulations.

A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

[2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless (i) reenacted by the 2003 Session of the General Assembly, and passed into law, and (ii) adequate funds have been appropriated for the purposes set forth in this act.]

ENGROSSED

HB975E