

## 2003 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 599

Offered January 8, 2003

Prefiled January 7, 2003

*Requesting the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to study hunting with dogs. Report.*

Patron—Abbitt

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, hunting wild birds and wild animals with the assistance of dogs is allowed, except as prohibited by law or regulation; and

WHEREAS, when the chase begins on other lands, fox hunters and coon hunters may follow their dogs on prohibited lands; and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs, but may not carry firearms or bows and arrows on their persons or hunt any game while thereon; and

WHEREAS, the use of vehicles to retrieve dogs on prohibited lands is be allowed only with the permission of the landowner or his agent; and

WHEREAS, the training of dogs on live wild animals is considered hunting and is unlawful during the closed season; and

WHEREAS, a bear hound training season is allowed in all counties or portions of counties in which bear hunting is permitted; and

WHEREAS, the chase seasons and the use of dogs in hunting generates a considerable number of complaints each year to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, especially the law that allows certain hunters to go on the lands of another to retrieve their dogs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries be requested to study hunting with dogs. The study should include, but not be limited to, an examination of the training of dogs with live wild animals, with particular attention paid to the bear hound training season.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2003, and shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2004 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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