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HOUSE BILL NO. 1951

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 13, 2009

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-6542 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Dangerous Dog Registry.*

Patron—Shuler

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 3.2-6542 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 3.2-6542. Establishment of Dangerous Dog Registry.

The Commissioner shall establish the Commonwealth of Virginia Dangerous Dog Registry to be maintained by the Department, Office of Veterinary Services. Each owner of any canine or canine crossbreed found by any appropriate court to be a dangerous dog shall be required to register the animal as a dangerous dog within 45 days of such finding. The State Veterinarian shall receive, post, and maintain the information provided by the owner, animal control officers, and other such officials statewide on a website. All information collected for the Dangerous Dog Registry shall be available to animal control officers via the website. Registration shall include the name of the animal, a photograph, sex, age, weight, primary breed, secondary breed, color and markings, whether spayed or neutered, the acts that resulted in the dog being designated as dangerous and associated trial docket information, microchip or tattoo number, address where the animal is maintained, name of the owner, address of the owner, telephone numbers of the owner, and a statement that the owner has complied with the provisions of the dangerous dog order. The address of the owner along with the name and breed of the dangerous dog, the acts that resulted in the dog being deemed dangerous, and information necessary to access court records of the adjudication shall be available to the general public. By January 31 of each year, until such time as the dangerous dog is deceased, the owner shall submit a renewal registration that shall include all information contained in the original registration and any updates. The owner shall verify the information is accurate by annual resubmissions. The owner shall submit to the State Veterinarian a \$100 initial registration fee and a \$35 renewal registration fee. In the event that the dangerous dog is moved to a different location, or contact information for the owner changes in any way at any time, the owner shall submit a renewal containing the address of the new location or other updated information within 10 days of such move or change. There shall be no charge for any updated information provided between renewals. Any funds collected pursuant to this section shall be used by the State Veterinarian to maintain the registry and website. The website list shall be known as the Virginia Dangerous Dog Registry.

Actions of the Department relating to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Commonwealth of Virginia Dangerous Dog Registry under this section shall be exempt from the provisions of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.).

Copies of all records, documents, and other papers pertaining to the Dangerous Dog Registry that are duly certified and authenticated in writing on the face of such documents to be true copies by the State Veterinarian or the Dangerous Dog Registry administrator shall be received as evidence with like effect as the original records, documents, or other papers in all courts of the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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