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**SENATE BILL NO. 820**

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled December 8, 2008

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 29.1 a section numbered 29.1-711.1, relating to local motorboat registration fee.*

Patron—Locke

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 29.1 a section numbered 29.1-711.1 as follows:**

*§ 29.1-711.1. Local motorboat registration fee.*

*A. Beginning January 1, 2010, each county, city, or town may, by ordinance, impose a registration fee upon the owner of any motorboat that is subject to the county, city, or town tangible personal property tax pursuant to Title 58.1. The fee imposed shall be for the registration of a motorboat for a period of 36 months. Upon proper application and payment of the fee, the registration may be renewed for additional 36-month periods.*

*B. For purposes of the amount of the fee, (i) motorboats weighing less than five tons and (ii) motorboats weighing five tons or more shall be separate classifications of property.*

*C. The registration fee described under this section shall not apply to a ship's lifeboat or property that is merchant's capital pursuant to Article 3 (§ 58.1-3509 et seq.) of Chapter 35 of Title 58.1.*

*D. 1. The local ordinance may require that decals signifying the last month and year during which the local registration is valid be displayed on the motorboat while it is being operated. Except as provided in this section, there shall be no additional charge for such decals.*

*2. Decals shall be displayed only upon the motorboat for which they were purchased and shall not be transferable.*

*3. If a decal becomes defaced, lost, or destroyed, the owner of the motorboat shall apply to the proper local official for a replacement decal within 15 days. The county, city, or town may charge a fee of \$1 for each decal or set of decals replaced.*

*4. The county, city, or town may require dealers and manufacturers of motorboats to display decals on motorboats that are merchant's capital being used for demonstration purposes, but the registration fee under this section shall not be imposed in such circumstances.*

*E. The fee imposed pursuant to the authority granted under this section shall be enforced and collected in the same manner that local taxes are enforced and collected under Title 58.1.*

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