

2010 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 573

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 12, 2010

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-900 of the Code of Virginia, relating to public nuisances.

Patron—Cole (By Request)

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 15.2-900 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-900. Abatement or removal of nuisances by localities; recovery of costs.

In addition to the remedy provided by § 48-5 and any other remedy provided by law, any locality may maintain an action to compel a responsible party to abate, raze, or remove a public nuisance. If the public nuisance presents an imminent and immediate threat to life or property, then the locality may abate, raze, or remove such public nuisance, and a locality may bring an action against the responsible party to recover the necessary costs incurred for the provision of public emergency services reasonably required to abate any such public nuisance.

The term "*public nuisance*" includes, but is not limited to, dangerous or unhealthy substances which have escaped, spilled, been released or which have been allowed to accumulate in or on any place and all unsafe, dangerous, or unsanitary public or private buildings, walls, or structures which constitute a menace to the health and safety of the occupants thereof or the public. The term "responsible party" includes, but is not limited to, the owner, occupier, or possessor of the premises where the nuisance is located, the owner or agent of the owner of the material which escaped, spilled, or was released and the owner or agent of the owner who was transporting or otherwise responsible for such material and whose acts or negligence caused such public nuisance.

For purposes of this title, a locality may define "public nuisance" to include activity or conduct that causes annoyance, inconvenience, or interference with the comfort, health, or safety of the public.

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