

## 2012 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### HOUSE BILL NO. 1159

Offered January 16, 2012

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 28.2-303.1, relating to the possession or sale of shark fins; penalty.*

Patron—Sickles

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 28.2-303.1 as follows:**

*§ 28.2-303.1. Possession or sale of shark fin prohibited; penalty.*

*A. As used in this section, "shark fin" means the raw, dried, or otherwise processed detached fin, or the raw, dried, or otherwise processed detached tail, of an elasmobranch.*

*B. Except as otherwise provided in subsection C or D, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute a shark fin.*

*C. Any person who holds a license or permit issued by the Commissioner to take or land sharks for recreational or commercial purposes may possess a shark fin or fins consistent with that license or permit.*

*D. Before January 1, 2013, any restaurant that possessed a shark fin as of January 1, 2012, may possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute that shark fin if it is prepared for consumption.*

*E. A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

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