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## SENATE BILL NO. 145

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled December 31, 2013

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 29.1-300.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 29.1-305.2, relating to special fox hunting licenses.*

Patron—Stuart

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

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

**1. That § 29.1-300.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 29.1-305.2 as follows:**

**§ 29.1-300.1. Certification of competence in hunter education.**

A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section and §§ 29.1-300.4 and 29.1-305.2, no hunting license shall be issued to (i) a person who has never obtained a license to hunt in any state or country, or (ii) a person who is under the age of sixteen, unless such a person presents to the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries or one of its authorized license vendors, a certificate of completion in hunter education issued or authorized by the Board under the hunter education program, or proof that he holds the equivalent certificate obtained from an authorized agency or association of another state or country.

B. Although a resident under the age of twelve is not required to obtain a license to hunt, any person under the age of twelve, or an individual on his behalf, may purchase a Virginia hunting license or a junior lifetime hunting license pursuant to § 29.1-302.1, without completing a hunter education program as required in subsection A of this section, provided that no person under the age of twelve shall hunt unless accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has, on his person, a valid Virginia hunting license. The junior lifetime hunting license issued to an individual under the age of twelve shall become invalid on the individual's twelfth birthday and remain invalid until certification of competence in hunter education is shown as provided in this section. A lifetime license, indicating the completion of hunter education or an equivalent certificate, shall be reissued at no cost when such proof is provided.

The adult shall be responsible for such supervision. For the purposes of this section, "adult" means the parent or legal guardian of the person under age twelve, or such person over the age of eighteen designated by the parent or legal guardian.

"Accompanied and directly supervised" means that the adult is within sight of the person under the age of twelve.

C. This section shall not apply to persons while on horseback hunting foxes with hounds but without firearms.

**§ 29.1-305.2. Special fox hunting licenses.**

*There shall be a special license for hunting foxes with hounds but without firearms. The special license shall exempt the licensee from the hunter education requirement of § 29.1-300.1 and shall serve in lieu of any license required by § 29.1-303. The fee for the special license shall be \$10 and shall be subject to subsequent revision by the Board pursuant to § 29.1-103.*

INTRODUCED

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