

2016 SESSION

INTRODUCED

16100492D

HOUSE BILL NO. 157

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled December 22, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.2-6501 of the Code of Virginia, relating to guidance documents for comprehensive animal care.

Patron—Orrock

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

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

**1. That § 3.2-6501 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 3.2-6501. Regulations and guidelines.**

A. The Board may adopt regulations and guidelines consistent with the objectives and intent of this chapter concerning the care and transportation of animals.

B. Every guidance document, as defined in § 2.2-4001, that the Department develops pursuant to this chapter shall, prior to its adoption by the Department, be subject to public comment for a period established by the Department. Before adopting a guidance document, the Department shall submit it to the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry and the Commissioner for their approval. The guidance document shall not have the force of law. Every approved guidance document shall be posted on the Department's website.

C. A guidance document shall not be the basis for issuance or denial of an approval letter for the operation of a private animal shelter.

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