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HOUSE BILL NO. 1488 Offered January 18, 2018

A BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-516 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Marine Resources Commission; oyster dredge; sanctuary area.

Patron—Helsel

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 28.2-516 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows: § 28.2-516. Oyster dredging or oyster dredging equipment on boat; penalty.

It is unlawful for any person to have on board a boat, a dredge or equipment normally used for dredging oysters, unless he has a license or permit to dredge. The license or permit shall be available for inspection on board the boat.

It is unlawful to carry or transport an oyster dredge or oyster dredging equipment on board a licensee's, permittee's, or his employee's boat, except when the boat is traveling to or from (i) the ground on which dredging is permitted or licensed to take place or (ii) docks for maintenance and repair of the boat or equipment. It is not unlawful to carry or transport an oyster dredge or oyster dredging equipment through an oyster sanctuary area when the boat is traveling to or from such ground or docks.

Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class 6 felony.