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HOUSE BILL NO. 220

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Local Government
on February 27, 2018)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Morefield)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-1806 and 15.2-1809.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to recreation facilities; regulation of activities; liability of localities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 15.2-1806 and 15.2-1809.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-1806. Parks, recreation facilities, playgrounds, etc.

A. A locality may establish parks, recreation facilities, and playgrounds; set apart for such use any land or buildings owned or leased by it; and acquire land, buildings, and other facilities pursuant to § 15.2-1800 for the aforesaid purposes.

In regard to its parks, recreation facilities, and playgrounds, a locality may:

1. Fix, prescribe, and provide for the collection of fees for their use;

2. Levy and collect an annual tax upon all property in the locality subject to local taxation to pay, in whole or in part, the expenses incident to their maintenance and operation;

3. Operate their use through a department or bureau of recreation or delegate the operation thereof to a recreation board created by it, to a school board, or any other appropriate existing board or commission.

B. A locality may also establish, conduct, and regulate a system of hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails and may set apart for such use any land or buildings owned or leased by it and may obtain licenses or permits for such use on land not owned or leased by it. A locality may also establish, conduct, and regulate a system of trails for all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles, or both, as those terms are defined in § 46.2-100, and may set apart for such use any land or buildings owned or leased by it and may obtain licenses, easements, leases, or permits for such use on land not owned or leased by it.

In furtherance of the purposes of this subsection, a locality may provide for the protection of persons whose property interests, or personal liability, may be related to or affected by the use of such trails.

C. A locality may also establish, conduct, and regulate public boating, canoeing, kayaking, and tubing activities on property on or adjacent to public waterways and may set apart for such use any land or buildings owned or leased by it and may obtain licenses or permits for such use on land not owned or leased by it.

§ 15.2-1809.1. Liability of localities and property owners for the site of trails and public waterway activities.

A. A locality which that establishes, conducts, and regulates a system of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, all-terrain vehicle vehicles, or off-road motorcycle motorcycles, or both any combination thereof, as provided in subsection B of § 15.2-1806, and the owner of any property leased or licensed for such use, shall not be liable for damages resulting from any injury to the person or from a loss of or damage to the property of any person arising from the condition of the property used for such trails, in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

B. A locality that establishes, conducts, and regulates public boating, canoeing, kayaking, or tubing activities on property on or adjacent to public waterways, as provided in subsection C of § 15.2-1806, and the owner of any property leased or licensed for such use, shall not be liable for damages resulting from any injury to the person or from a loss of or damage to the property of any person arising from the condition of the property used for such activities, in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

HB220S1