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HOUSE BILL NO. 1573

Offered January 14, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-6587, 18.2-403.1, and 18.2-403.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to rabid animals; penalty.

Patron—Bell

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 3.2-6587, 18.2-403.1, and 18.2-403.3 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 3.2-6587. Unlawful acts; penalties.

A. The following shall be unlawful acts and are Class 4 misdemeanors:

1. For any person to make a false statement in order to secure a dog or cat license to which he is not entitled.

2. For any dog or cat owner to fail to pay any license tax required by this chapter before February 1 for the year in which it is due. In addition, the court may order confiscation and the proper disposition of the dog or cat.

3. For any dog owner to allow a dog to run at large in violation of an ordinance passed pursuant to § 3.2-6539.

4. ~~For~~ Unless otherwise punishable under subsection B or § 18.2-403.1, for any person to fail to obey an ordinance passed pursuant to §§ 3.2-6522 and 3.2-6525.

5. For any owner to fail to dispose of the body of his companion animals in accordance with § 3.2-6554.

6. For the owner of any dog or cat with a contagious or infectious disease *other than rabies* to permit such dog or cat to stray from his premises if such disease is known to the owner.

7. For any person to conceal or harbor any dog or cat on which any required license tax has not been paid.

8. For any person, except the owner or custodian, to remove a legally acquired license tag from a dog or cat without the permission of the owner or custodian.

9. Any other violation of this chapter for which a specific penalty is not provided.

B. It is a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to:

1. Present a false claim or to receive any money on a false claim under the provisions of § 3.2-6553; ~~or~~.

2. Impersonate a humane investigator.

3. *Being the owner of a dog or cat with rabies, permit the dog or cat to stray from his premises if such disease is known to the owner.*

§ 18.2-403.1. Offenses involving animals — Class 1 misdemeanors.

The following unlawful acts and offenses against animals shall constitute and be punished as a Class 1 misdemeanor:

1. Violation of subsection A of § 3.2-6570 pertaining to cruelty to animals, except as provided for second or subsequent violations in that section.

2. Violation of § 3.2-6508 pertaining to transporting animals under certain conditions.

3. Making a false claim or receiving money on a false claim under § 3.2-6553 pertaining to compensation for livestock and poultry killed by dogs.

4. Violation of § 3.2-6518 pertaining to boarding establishments and groomers as defined in § 3.2-6500.

5. Violation of § 3.2-6504 pertaining to the abandonment of animals.

6. *Being the owner of a dog or cat with rabies, permitting the dog or cat to stray from his premises if such disease is known to the owner.*

§ 18.2-403.3. Offenses involving animals — Class 4 misdemeanors.

The following unlawful acts and offenses against animals shall constitute and be punished as a Class 4 misdemeanor:

1. Violation of § 3.2-6566 pertaining to interference of agents charged with preventing cruelty to animals.

2. Violation of § 3.2-6573 pertaining to shooting pigeons.

3. Violation of § 3.2-6554 pertaining to disposing of the body of a dead companion animal.

4. ~~Violation~~ Unless otherwise punishable under § 18.2-403.1 or subsection B of § 3.2-6587, violation

INTRODUCED

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- 59 of ordinances passed pursuant to §§ 3.2-6522 and 3.2-6525 pertaining to rabid dogs and preventing the
60 spread of rabies and the running at large of vicious dogs.
- 61 5. Violation of an ordinance passed pursuant to § 3.2-6539 requiring dogs to be on a leash.
- 62 6. Failure by any person to secure and exhibit the permits required by § 29.1-422 pertaining to field
63 trails, night trails and foxhounds.
- 64 7. Diseased dogs. — For the owner of any dog with a contagious or infectious disease *other than*
65 *rabies* to permit such dog to stray from his premises if such disease is known to the owner.
- 66 8. License application. — For any person to make a false statement in order to secure a dog or cat
67 license to which he is not entitled.
- 68 9. License tax. — For any dog or cat owner to fail to pay any license tax required by subsection A
69 or C of § 3.2-6530 within one month after the date when it is due. In addition, the court may order
70 confiscation and the proper disposition of the dog or cat.
- 71 10. Concealing a dog or cat. — For any person to conceal or harbor any dog or cat on which any
72 required license tax has not been paid.
- 73 11. Removing collar and tag. — For any person, except the owner or custodian, to remove a legally
74 acquired license tag from a dog or cat without the permission of the owner or custodian.
- 75 12. Violation of § 3.2-6503 pertaining to care of animals by owner.