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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1247**

Offered January 20, 2022

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 29.1 a section numbered 29.1-509.1, relating to prohibition of killing contests.*

Patrons—Kearney and Hope

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 29.1 a section numbered 29.1-509.1 as follows:**

**§ 29.1-509.1. Killing contests prohibited.**

*A. It shall be unlawful to organize, sponsor, promote, conduct, participate in, or solicit participation in a contest, organized competition, tournament, or derby in which participants are offered cash, prizes, or other inducements of monetary value to capture or kill coyotes or fur-bearing animals.*

*B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict coyote bounties as authorized pursuant to § 15.2-926.1. This section shall not apply to a bona fide field trial permitted pursuant to § 29.1-422 or to a landowner shooting fur-bearing animals upon his own property pursuant to § 29.1-517.*

*C. The remains of any coyote or fur-bearing animal killed during any activity prohibited by this section shall be forfeited, and the remains of such animal shall become the property of the Department.*

INTRODUCED

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