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HOUSE BILL NO. 196

Offered January 14, 1994

A BILL to amend and reenact § 29.1-743 of the Code of Virginia, relating to permit fees for regattas.

Patrons—Armstrong and Reynolds; Senator: Goode

Referred to Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 29.1-743 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 29.1-743. Regattas, races, marine parades, tournaments or exhibitions.

A. The Board may authorize the holding of regattas, motorboat or other boat races, marine parades, tournaments, or exhibitions on any waters of the Commonwealth. The Board shall issue a permit for such events and set a fee sufficient to defray the costs of processing the permit and administering the permitted activity. However, the permit fee shall not exceed fifty dollars per day *and in the case of regattas, the Board shall not charge a permit fee.* The Board shall adopt and may amend regulations concerning the safety of motorboats and other vessels and persons thereon. Whenever a regatta, motorboat or other boat race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition is proposed to be held, the person in charge shall, at least thirty days prior to the event, file an application with the Board for permission to hold the regatta, motorboat or other boat race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition. The application shall set forth the date, time and location where it is proposed to hold such activity, and it shall not be conducted without written authorization of the Board.

B. The sponsor, promoter or organizer of any competitive freshwater fishing tournament in which (i) twenty-five or more boats are used by competitors, (ii) persons promoting, sponsoring or organizing the tournament are paid for, or receive profits from, the operation of the tournament, (iii) commercial enterprises or products are advertised at or through the tournament, or (iv) prizes of a total value greater than \$500 are offered or advertised, shall notify the Department not less than seven days prior to the tournament, on a form provided by the Board, of his intent to conduct the tournament. The notice shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars, which shall be deposited in the motorboat and water safety fund established pursuant to § 29.1-701. The sponsor, promoter or organizer shall, within seven days after the tournament, complete and return to the Department a questionnaire provided by the Board for collection of fishery and boating data.

C. The provisions of this section shall not exempt any person from compliance with applicable federal law or regulation, but nothing in this section shall be construed to require the securing of a state permit pursuant to this section if the necessary permit has been obtained from an authorized agency of the United States.

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