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**HOUSE BILL NO. 510****FLOOR AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**(Proposed by Delegate Deeds  
on February 17, 1998)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Deeds)

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-140 of the Code of Virginia, relating to damaging trees and other plants on park authority property; penalty.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 18.2-140 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 18.2-140. Destruction of trees, shrubs, etc.

It shall be unlawful for any person to pick, pull, pull up, tear, tear up, dig, dig up, cut, break, injure, burn or destroy, in whole or in part, any tree, shrub, vine, plant, flower or turf found, growing or being upon the land of another, or upon any land reserved, set aside or maintained by the Commonwealth as a public park, or as a refuge or sanctuary for wild animals, birds or fish, *or upon any land reserved, set aside or maintained as a public park by a park authority created under the provisions of § 15.2-5702,* without having previously obtained the permission in writing of such owner or his agent or of the superintendent or custodian of such park, refuge or sanctuary so to do, unless the same be done under the personal direction of such owner, his agent, tenant or lessee or superintendent or custodian of such park, refuge or sanctuary.

Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor; provided, however, that the approval of the owner, his agent, tenant or lessee, or the superintendent or custodian of such park or sanctuary afterwards given in writing or in open court shall be a bar to further prosecution or suit.