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HOUSE BILL NO. 2266

House Amendments in [] — February 7, 1999

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 28.2-1204.1, relating to submerged aquatic vegetation.*

Patrons—Murphy, Bloxom and Jones, J.C.; Senators: Bolling and Gartlan

Referred to Committee on Chesapeake and Its Tributaries

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 28.2-1204.1 as follows:**

§ 28.2-1204.1. Submerged aquatic vegetation.

[A.] The Commission shall, in consultation with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, develop guidelines containing criteria for use in:

1. Defining existing beds of submerged aquatic vegetation; [and]

2. Delineating areas where there is potential for submerged aquatic vegetation restoration [; and

3. Designation of submerged aquatic vegetation restoration areas on public bottomlands, not including Baylor Grounds, based on historical areas of growth.

B. When granting new or renewed leases or permits for the use of bottomlands, the Commission shall protect for submerged aquatic vegetation restoration those areas designated as restoration areas pursuant to subsection A. This provision shall not be construed as restricting the Commission's authority to protect submerged aquatic vegetation in other areas] .

ENGROSSED

HB2266E