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HOUSE BILL NO. 2601

House Amendments in [] — February 3, 1999

A BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-302.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to recreational saltwater fishing.

Patrons—Bloxom and Murphy

Referred to Committee on Chesapeake and Its Tributaries

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 28.2-302.8 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 28.2-302.8. Headboat or charterboat; rental boats.

A. The Commission may establish [~~and limit~~] the sale of a fishing guide license. If established, such fishing guide license shall be required for each charterboat and headboat captain. [The Commission may limit the sale of such licenses to nonresidents when deemed necessary by the Commission for effective fisheries management.] The application for the license shall include a copy of the applicant's current U.S. Coast Guard license permitting him to carry passengers for hire. The fee for the license shall not exceed \$ 100. The Commission may reduce the fee charged for the saltwater recreational fishing license under subsection B by an amount equal to the fee for the fishing guide license.

~~A.~~ B. The owner of a headboat or charterboat annually shall purchase a recreational fishing license which covers his customers to meet the requirements set forth in § 28.2-302.1. The annual cost of the license shall be \$150 for uninspected vessels licensed by the United States Coast Guard to carry six fishing passengers or fewer and, for boats United States Coast Guard certified to carry a number of fishing passengers greater than six, \$150 plus \$4 for each passenger over six for which the boat is designed.

~~B.~~ C. The owner of a boat rental service shall purchase a recreational fishing license which covers his customers to meet the requirements set forth in § 28.2-302.1. The annual cost of the license shall be \$7.50 per boat with a maximum fee of \$500, whichever is less.

~~C.~~ D. Charterboat and headboat operators shall report such data as are deemed necessary by the Commission for the effective fisheries management as a condition of issuance of the license.

~~D.~~ E. All funds collected pursuant to this section shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund, as established by § 28.2-302.3.

ENGROSSED

HB2601E