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HOUSE BILL NO. 1877

Offered January 10, 2001 Prefiled January 5, 2001

A BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-556 of the Code of Virginia, relating to erosion control devices within the Baylor survey.

Patron—Devolites

Referred to Committee on Chesapeake and Its Tributaries

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 28.2-556 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 28.2-556. Erosion control devices within the Baylor survey.

The public oyster beds, rocks, and shoals shall not include any area needed for an erosion control structure if the Commission, after considering the comments of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and any other relevant evidence, finds that: (i) shoreline erosion has occurred at the site and is expected to continue; (ii) such erosion is increasing the sediment load to public waters, causing degradation of water quality; (iii) the proposed project is a technically and environmentally preferable acceptable way to control erosion at the site; and (iv) the Commonwealth's interest in protecting water quality by controlling erosion at the site outweighs the value of the portion of the natural oyster beds, rocks, and shoals affected by the erosion control structure. Whenever the area of the natural ovster beds, rocks, and shoals is so changed, the Commission shall make the changes on its Baylor survey charts.