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HOUSE BILL NO. 1944

House Amendments in [] - January 28, 2011

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-507 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the closing of public oyster grounds.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Pollard

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 28.2-507 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 28.2-507. Opening and closing public rocks.

The Commission, in order to protect or promote the growth of oysters, may (i) close and open any area or restrict the manner or method of taking oysters in any area of the public rocks, grounds, or shoals, (ii) establish seed beds and plant shells and other culch, or (iii) take any other restorative measures. Before closing any such area, an officer shall post notice of the closing for at least ~~five~~ 30 days in two or more public places in the district in which the area is located. *Such notice requirement shall not apply to those public rocks closed by the Virginia Department of Health [or state replenishment programs]*. In addition, when the Commissioner finds it necessary, the area may be marked by a uniform system of buoys or signs indicating that such area is closed and that oystering by any means is prohibited. Any area which has been closed and reopened at a later time may be closed by the Commission or Commissioner at any time without notice.

ENGROSSED

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