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SENATE BILL NO. 1455

Offered January 21, 2011

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 36-98.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Amusement Device Act; amusement device or structure.*

Patrons—Hanger, Deeds and Obenshain

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 36-98.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 36-98.3. Amusement devices.

A. The Board shall have the power and duty to promulgate regulations pertaining to the construction, maintenance, operation and inspection of amusement devices. Amusement device means (i) a device or structure open to the public by which persons are conveyed or moved in an unusual manner for diversion, *but excluding snow tubing parks and rides, ski terrain parks, ski slopes and ski trails*, and (ii) passenger tramways. A "passenger tramway" means a device used to transport passengers uphill, and suspended in the air by the use of steel cables, chains or belts, or by ropes, and usually supported by trestles or towers with one or more spans. Regulations promulgated hereunder shall include provisions for the following:

1. The issuance of certificates of inspection prior to the operation of an amusement device;
2. The demonstration of financial responsibility of the owner or operator of the amusement device prior to the operation of an amusement device;
3. Maintenance inspections of existing amusement devices;
4. Reporting of accidents resulting in serious injury or death;
5. Immediate investigative inspections following accidents involving an amusement device that result in serious injury or death;
6. Certification of amusement device inspectors;
7. Qualifications of amusement device operators;
8. Notification by amusement device owners or operators of an intent to operate at a location within the Commonwealth; and

9. A timely reconsideration of the decision of the local building department when an amusement device owner or operator is aggrieved by such a decision.

B. In promulgating regulations, the Board shall have due regard for generally accepted standards as recommended by nationally recognized organizations. Where appropriate, the Board shall establish separate standards for mobile amusement devices and for amusement devices permanently affixed to a site.

C. To assist the Board in the administration of this section, the Board shall appoint an Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee, which shall be composed of five members who, by virtue of their education, training or employment, have demonstrated adequate knowledge of amusement devices or the amusement industry. The Board shall determine the terms of the Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee members. The Amusement Device Technical Advisory Committee shall recommend standards for the construction, maintenance, operation and inspection of amusement devices, including the qualifications of amusement device operators and the certification of inspectors, and otherwise perform advisory functions as the Board may require.

D. Inspections required by this section shall be performed by persons certified by the Board pursuant to subdivision 6 of § 36-137 as competent to inspect amusement devices. The provisions of § 36-105 notwithstanding, the local governing body shall enforce the regulations promulgated by the Board for existing amusement devices. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the local governing body from authorizing inspections to be performed by persons who are not employees of the local governing body, provided those inspectors are certified by the Board as provided herein. The Board is authorized to conduct or cause to be conducted any inspection required by this section, provided that the person performing the inspection on behalf of the Board is certified by the Board as provided herein.

E. To the extent they are not superseded by the provisions of this section and the regulations promulgated hereunder, the provisions of this chapter and the Uniform Statewide Building Code shall apply to amusement devices.

INTRODUCED

SB1455