

2013 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 737

Offered January 9, 2013

Prefiled December 12, 2012

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 29.1-745.1, relating to navigation of freshwaters by nonmotorized vessels.*

Patrons—Petersen; Delegate: Habeeb

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 29.1-745.1 as follows:

§ 29.1-745.1. Navigation of freshwaters by nonmotorized vessels.

The bays, rivers, streams, and creeks of the Commonwealth, excluding legal and permanent impoundments and tidal waters, shall be open to navigation by nonmotorized vessels for purposes of recreation between sunrise and sunset. This section shall apply notwithstanding the status of the bay, river, stream, or creek as navigable or nonnavigable or the public or private ownership of the adjoining banks. This section shall not be construed to allow navigation on portions of bays, rivers, streams, or creeks where prohibited by local, state, or federal laws or regulations for purposes of conservation or safety.

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