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**SENATE BILL NO. 50**

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled December 17, 2013

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 29.1-568 of the Code of Virginia, relating to endangered and threatened species.*

Patrons—Martin; Delegate: Cox

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 29.1-568 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 29.1-568. When Board may permit taking of endangered or threatened species; designated experimental populations.**

A. The Board may permit the taking, exportation, transportation, or possession of any fish or wildlife which is listed by the provisions of this article, for zoological, educational, or scientific purposes and for propagation of such fish or wildlife in captivity for preservation purposes. *Any person may, in accordance with all applicable federal laws, possess and transport any animal included on any list of threatened or endangered species published by the United States Secretary of the Interior pursuant to provisions of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-205), as amended, as a personal pet when the federal designation specifically provides for such possession.*

B. The Board may adopt regulations that:

1. Allow the taking, possession, exportation, transportation, or release of fish or wildlife within or among designated experimental populations of a specific species, within the context of an approved conservation plan for the species. Any regulation designating an experimental population shall (i) specify the circumstances under which taking of an individual member of an experimental population will be exempt from the prohibitions and penalties authorized under this article and (ii) describe the geographic extent of the experimental population, which shall be distinct from naturally occurring populations continuing to be subject to the prohibitions and penalties authorized under this article.

2. Allow incidental take provided such regulations shall (i) describe the allowable circumstances; (ii) include provisions that ensure offsets through the implementation of conservation actions specified by the Department to enhance the long-term survival of the species or population; and (iii) require any actual taking to be at a minimum.

INTRODUCED

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