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SENATE BILL NO. 283

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 7, 2016

A BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-226.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to crab pots; recreational gear license; turtle excluder device.

Patron—Lewis

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 28.2-226.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 28.2-226.2. Commission to establish requirements for commercial gear licenses used for recreational purposes.**

A. The Commission is authorized to establish the type and amount of commercial gear ~~which~~ that can be used for taking finfish and shellfish for recreational purposes. The license fees for use of recreational gear shall be the same as fees charged for the particular gear when used commercially.

B. The Commission shall not issue to any licensee a recreational gear license ~~which~~ that exceeds the following limitations:

1. One gill net up to 300 feet in length, \$7.50;

2. Up to 10 crab pots, \$29;

3. One crab trap or crab pound, \$5;

4. One crab scrape, \$16; or

5. Two eel pots, \$10.

C. All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the Virginia Marine Products Fund as established under § 3.2-2705.

D. The Commission may subsequently revise the cost of licenses pursuant to § 28.2-201.

E. The Commission shall require that a rectangular wire or plastic turtle reduction device measuring no more than 1 3/4 inches high and 4 3/4 inches long be firmly attached to each entrance or funnel in the lower chamber of each crab pot covered by a recreational gear license issued pursuant to this section.

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