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<u>2</u> 3 HOUSE BILL NO. 264 Offered January 10, 2018 Prefiled January 3, 2018

A BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-625 of the Code of Virginia, relating to oyster-planting ground; transfer or assignment of lease to locality.

Patrons-Turpin, Adams, D.M., Boysko, Krizek, Levine, McQuinn, Reid and Simon

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 28.2-625 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows: § 28.2-625. Transfer or assignment.

A person holding an existing lease of oyster-planting ground may transfer or assign all or any part of the lease to another under the following conditions and provisions:

- 1. The transfer or assignment may be made only to (i) a resident of the Commonwealth, (ii) a locality or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth, or (iii) a firm or corporation authorized by Virginia laws to occupy and hold oyster-planting ground.
- 2. The application for transfer or assignment shall be in the form prescribed by the Commissioner and shall be filed with the Commission.
- 3. The Commissioner shall require a new survey if no survey exists of the exact parcel or parcels of grounds to be transferred or assigned.
- 4. The cost of any new surveys required under this section shall be borne by the person making the transfer, and the cost and fees shall be the same as for surveys made by the Commissioner.
- 5. The application shall be accompanied by the transfer fee of five dollars \$5 if the parcel or parcels are ten 10 acres or less and ten dollars \$10 if the parcel or parcels are more than ten 10 acres.
- 6. The Commissioner shall record in his office the application for transfer or assignment with any correction or new plat he deems necessary.
- 7. The transfer or assignment shall constitute a new lease of the tract or parcel assigned and any ground remaining under the old lease.
- 2. That the provisions of this act regarding the transfer or assignment of the lease of a general oyster-planting ground shall be effective retroactively to July 1, 1966.