

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

CHAPTER 234

An Act to amend and reenact § 57-20 of the Code of Virginia, relating to religious and charitable matters; quantity of land certain associations may hold.

[H 2308]

Approved March 18, 2021

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 57-20 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 57-20. Quantity of land benevolent and other associations may hold.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the trustee for the use of any benevolent or other association referred to in § 57-19 shall not hereafter take or hold, at one time, any land exceeding five acres; and the trustees of two or more bodies or societies may hold jointly, land not exceeding five acres; provided that the local governing body of any county or city may by ordinance authorize such trustee or trustees to take and hold in such county or city not exceeding ~~ten~~ 10 acres of land at any one time. However, a school league may, in addition to the five acres held by such trustees, hold not exceeding ~~ten~~ 10 acres as a home for the principal of the school for which the league is named. All such holdings heretofore acquired are validated; except holdings ~~which~~ that are in litigation prior to or on July 1, 1964.

Any lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks or other groups organized for rural community civic purposes or improvement of farm life or operations of like purposes and not for profit may hold not exceeding ~~thirty-five~~ 35 acres of land. All such holdings heretofore acquired are validated; except holdings ~~which~~ that are in litigation on or before July 1, 2002.

Any association or post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Spanish War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, or any similar association of veterans of the ~~armed forces~~ *Armed Forces* of the United States chartered by an act of Congress may hold not exceeding ~~seventy-five~~ 200 acres of land. Notwithstanding any other provision of law conveyances of land made prior to June 29, 1948, to any such post or association of veterans is validated provided the same is not in excess of ~~seventy-five~~ 75 acres. *Notwithstanding the provisions of § 58.1-3607, for real property owned by an association or post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Spanish War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, or any similar association of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States chartered by an act of Congress, that portion of real property owned by such association or post in excess of 75 acres shall be subject to the provisions of § 58.1-3651 and shall not be exempt from taxation unless an ordinance to that effect is adopted by the local governing body.*