

# 1996 SESSION

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## HOUSE BILL NO. 158

Offered January 10, 1996

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 28.2-708.1, relating to the harvest of crabs showing egg masses; penalty.*

Patrons—Grayson and Murphy

Referred to Committee on Chesapeake and Its Tributaries

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 28.2-708.1 as follows:**

*§ 28.2-708.1. Prohibition on taking sponge crabs; penalty.*

*It is unlawful for any person to take or catch female crabs showing an egg mass from July 15 to August 16. During this period it shall be unlawful for any person to sell to a commercial purchaser, and for a commercial purchaser to buy, a female crab from which the egg carrying portion of its anatomy has been removed. For purposes of this section, a commercial purchaser is one who buys crabs in bulk for processing or resale.*

*A violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor.*

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