

1996 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 201

Offered January 10, 1996

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

Patrons—Murphy, Cooper, Crittenden, Darner, Grayson, Griffith, Morgan and Spruill

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.

A. It is unlawful for any person to catch, take or have in his possession any crab showing an egg mass (sponge crab). Any such crab caught or taken shall be immediately returned to the water alive. If any crab showing an egg mass is found in a culled container of crabs, the entire quantity of crabs in or from the container shall be seized by the officer finding the violation.

B. Any officer may grade, cull or inspect any number of barrels, baskets or containers of crabs in any person's possession.

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

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