

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 29.1-529 of the Code of Virginia, relating to deer kill permits.*

3 [H 321]

4 Approved

5 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**6 **1. That § 29.1-529 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**7 § 29.1-529. Killing of deer or bear damaging fruit trees, crops, livestock or personal property or
8 creating a hazard to aircraft or motor vehicles.9 Whenever deer or bear are damaging fruit trees, crops, livestock or personal property in the
10 Commonwealth, the owner or lessee of the lands on which such damage is done shall immediately
11 report the damage to the ~~local game warden~~ *Director or his designee* for investigation. If after
12 investigation the ~~game warden~~ *Director or his designee* finds that deer or bear are responsible for the
13 damage, he shall authorize in writing the owner, lessee or any other person designated by the ~~game~~
14 ~~warden~~ *Director or his designee* to kill such deer or bear when they are found upon the land upon
15 which the damages occurred. The ~~game warden~~ *Director or his designee* may limit such authorization
16 by specifying in writing a ~~the number of animals to be killed and the period of time for which the~~
17 authorization is effective. ~~Game wardens~~ *The Director or his designees* issuing these authorizations
18 shall specify in writing that only antlerless deer shall be killed, unless the ~~game warden~~ *Director or his*
19 *designee* determines that there is clear and convincing evidence that the damage was done by deer with
20 antlers.21 Whenever deer are creating a hazard to the operation of any aircraft or to the facilities connected
22 with the operation of aircraft, the person or persons responsible for the safe operation of the aircraft or
23 facilities shall report such fact to the ~~local game warden~~ *Director or his designee* for investigation. If
24 after investigation the ~~game warden~~ *Director or his designee* finds that deer are creating a hazard, he
25 shall authorize such person or persons, or their representatives, to kill the deer when they are found to
26 be creating such a hazard.27 Whenever deer are creating a hazard to the operation of a motor vehicle within the corporate limits
28 of any city, the operator of a motor vehicle may report such fact to the ~~local game warden~~ *Director or*
29 *his designee* for investigation. If after investigation the ~~game warden~~ *Director or his designee* finds that
30 deer are creating a hazard within such city, he may authorize responsible persons, or their
31 representatives, to kill the deer when they are found to be creating such a hazard. The carcass of every
32 deer or bear so killed may be awarded to the owner or lessee by the ~~game warden~~ *Director or his*
33 *designee*, who shall give such person a certificate to that effect on forms furnished by the Department.
34 Any person awarded a deer or bear under this section may use the carcass as if he had killed the animal
35 during the hunting season for deer or bear.36 *The Director or his designee may revoke any authorization granted under this section when it has*
37 *been shown by a preponderance of the evidence that an abuse of the authorization has occurred.*

ENROLLED

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