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HOUSE BILL NO. 1247

Offered January 20, 2022

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 29.1 a section numbered 29.1-509.1, relating to prohibition of killing contests.

Patron—Keam

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 29.1 a section numbered 29.1-509.1 as follows:

§ 29.1-509.1. Killing contests prohibited.

A. It shall be unlawful to organize, sponsor, promote, conduct, participate in, or solicit participation in a contest, organized competition, tournament, or derby in which participants are offered cash, prizes, or other inducements of monetary value to capture or kill coyotes or fur-bearing animals.

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict coyote bounties as authorized pursuant to § 15.2-926.1. This section shall not apply to a bona fide field trial permitted pursuant to § 29.1-422 or to a landowner shooting fur-bearing animals upon his own property pursuant to § 29.1-517.

C. The remains of any coyote or fur-bearing animal killed during any activity prohibited by this section shall be forfeited, and the remains of such animal shall become the property of the Department.

INTRODUCED

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