

HOUSE BILL NO. 1811

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on/for _____

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate March)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 29.1-506 and 29.1-516 of the Code of Virginia, relating to hunting deer on private lands; closed seasons.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 29.1-506 and 29.1-516 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 29.1-506. Prescribing seasons and bag limits for taking fish and game.

A. After careful study of each species of wild bird, animal, and fish within the jurisdiction of the Board in cities and counties of the Commonwealth, the Board shall have the power to prescribe the seasons and bag limits for hunting, fishing, trapping, or otherwise taking such wild birds, animals, and fish by regulation adopted as provided in this article.

B. Any closed season for hunting deer prescribed by the Board pursuant to this section shall not apply to the hunting of deer on private lands except when such season is closed or shortened pursuant to the provisions of § 29.1-507.

§ 29.1-516. Game animals.

The following provisions shall apply to the killing and hunting of the particular game animals listed:

Black bear. -- A black bear may be killed by any person when (i) it is inflicting or attempting to inflict injury to a person or (ii) when a person is in pursuit of the bear commenced immediately after the commission of such offense. Any person killing a bear under this provision shall immediately report the killing to a state conservation police officer.

Deer. -- It is unlawful for a person to kill or attempt to kill a deer in the water of any stream, lake, or pond. It is unlawful to hunt deer with dogs in the counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

27 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any closed season for hunting deer shall not apply to the
28 hunting of deer with any weapon permitted in § 29.1-519 on private lands except when such season is
29 closed or shortened pursuant to the provisions of § 29.1-507.

30 Fox. -- There is a continuous open season for hunting with dogs only. The hunting or pursuit of
31 foxes shall mean the actual following of the dogs while in pursuit of a fox or foxes or the managing of the
32 dog or dogs, including by the use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) or other electronic tracking device,
33 while the fox or foxes are being hunted or pursued. Nothing in this section shall preclude the managing of
34 dogs by the use of a GPS or other electronic tracking device by hunters when hunting other game animals.
35 Foxes may be killed at any time by the owner or tenant of any land when such animals are doing damage
36 to domestic stock or fowl.

37 Rabbits and squirrels. -- It is unlawful to kill rabbits or squirrels during the closed season; however,
38 the following persons may kill rabbits or squirrels for their own use during the closed season:

- 39 1. A landowner and members of his immediate family;
- 40 2. Resident members of hunt clubs who own the land in fee, either jointly or through a holding
41 company;
- 42 3. Tenants residing on the premises, with the written permission of the landowner.

43 When such animals are committing substantial damage to fruit trees, gardens, crops, or other
44 property, the owner of the premises may kill the animals or have them killed under a permit obtained from
45 the conservation police officer.

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