

HOUSE BILL NO. 1614

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on General Laws

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Williams Graves)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 36-22.2, relating to housing authorities; common household pets.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 36-22.2 as follows:

§ 36-22.2. Common household pets.

A. For purposes of this section:

"Common household pet" means a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, fish, or nonvenomous reptile that is traditionally kept in the home for companionship rather than for commercial purposes. "Common household pet" does not include an assistance animal as defined in § 36-96.1:1 or any animal prohibited by local ordinance pursuant to § 3.2-6544.

"Reasonable condition" means rules or policies including but not limited to those governing health, sanitation, nuisance, threat, leashing requirements, requirements to carry liability insurance coverage, pet deposits, spaying and neutering requirements, prohibitions on pets kept for the purpose of training for fighting or wagering of bets, and prohibitions on types of dogs classified as dangerous pursuant to §§ 3.2-6540 and 3.2-6540.1. "Reasonable condition" does not include a prohibition on a particular breed of common household pet.

B. Each housing authority shall permit a tenant to own or maintain one or more common household pets within the tenant's dwelling unit, subject to applicable state and federal law and regulations regarding public health or safety, animal control, and animal cruelty and other reasonable conditions.

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